



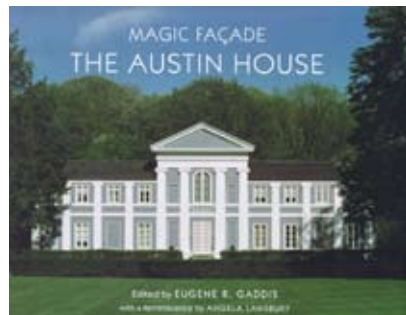
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Check out this other National Landmark! Austin Book and Exhibit



The story of a house that combines the theatrical fantasy of the baroque and the arresting elegance of the Machine Age—and the dazzling modernist who created it.

In 1930 29 year-old Chick Austin and his wife, Helen Goodwin, built a house on one of the grandest streets in Hartford. It was a pastiche of a sixteenth-century Palladian villa they had seen near Venice on their honeymoon, but instead of brick and stucco, the house was constructed with painted pine boards. Behind its 86 foot-long façade, it was a mere 18 feet deep, leading Austin's neighbors, who lived in respectable neo-colonial or Tudor-revival houses, to call it "the pasteboard palace."

The house became the stage set of Chick Austin's life, a gathering place for leading figures in the international art world—from Dali and Calder to Balanchine and Le Corbusier. They came to participate in the artistic tidal wave that Chick Austin set in motion as director of Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum from 1927 to 1944. Austin emerged as a pioneer in both the rediscovery of the baroque and

the introduction of modernism to the United States. He presented the first comprehensive American exhibitions of Italian baroque painting, surrealism, and the works of Picasso, and he produced a series of groundbreaking performances at the museum, including the premiere of the now legendary opera by Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson, *Four Saints in Three Acts*, and the first public performances of Balanchine's original company, which evolved into the New York City Ballet. Austin was himself a painter, a designer of sets and costumes, a superb cook, an actor and a stage magician. But it was as a connoisseur and an impresario of the arts that he became, in the words of composer Virgil Thomson, "a whole cultural movement in one man."

The book includes nearly 200 illustrations—historic photographs, works of art from the Atheneum's collections, Austin family archival material, and recent images of the restored house by noted photographer Geoffrey Gross. It features a reminiscence of Chick Austin by his friend Angela Lansbury and an essay by Eugene R. Gaddis, the William G. DeLana Archivist and Curator of the Austin House at the Wadsworth Atheneum, whose biography of Austin, *Magician of the Modern*, was published in 2000. Gaddis tells the story of the Austin House, its creator and his family, with commentary by Chick Austin's son, architect David Austin. Richard Guy Wilson, the distinguished Commonwealth Professor and Chair of the Department of Architectural History at the University of Virginia, provides an essay setting the Austin House in the context of early twentieth-century American domestic architecture in both its "antic" and serious modes. Krystyn Hastings-Silver, the Austin House Restoration Project Manager, describes the restoration philosophy and the meticulous detective work required to recreate the magic of this National Historic Landmark and rekindle the spirit of Chick Austin.

Available at The Wadsworth Atheneum Gift Shop or your local book sellers.

**The
 Wadsworth
 Atheneum
 exhibit
 runs
 through
 April 20**



**Coltsville:
 on the Road to Becoming a
 National
 Landmark**

On December 5, the Landmarks Committee of the National Park Advisory Board voted unanimously to designate Coltsville as a National Historic Landmark. This is not the final step, but it was the important one, and the remaining steps are expected to follow automatically. The vote will be approved by the full Advisory Board at its next meeting, and then the Secretary of the Interior will make a formal designation. A leader in the effort was Representative John Larson (D-1st District). In August he said, "Recognizing Coltsville's heritage and the role of Samuel and Elizabeth Colt in shaping Hartford and revolutionizing American business will be an important step in revitalizing the city. The whole community, including federal, state, and local government officials have worked together to make great improvements to the application for National Historic Landmark status. I will continue to work closely

with everyone gathered tonight to see this project through to its successful completion."

The conversion, by Robert MacFarlane of Homes for America Holdings, is one of Hartford's most prominent redevelopment projects, slowly progressing despite numerous difficulties and setbacks. Rebekah MacFarlane, of Homes for America Holdings, said that although NHL status might bring some money to the project, the recognition was more important. Landmark designation is also seen as a step in the process of creating a national park at Coltsville.

Historian Bruce Clouette, who co-authored the National Register nomination for the Colt complex in the 1970s and collaborated on the NHL nomination, commented, "My hope is that this will now be the first in a series of positive outcomes, as we look forward to continuing the process for National Park Service participation at the site and as we wish the MacFarlanes well as they navigate through these difficult economic times."

(Reprinted in part with the permission of the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, *Connecticut Preservation News*, January/February 2008.)

Local Initiatives



In addition to this national news event, local initiatives were just as strong. The Ridgefield Street Local Historic District, with assistance from Neighborhoods of Hartford, Inc., placed a new welcome sign at the entrance to their inviting tree-lined street which has views into Keney Park. Their actions in creating the district have grabbed the attention of owners on neighboring streets who have expressed interest in their preservation activities.



The West End has been enhanced by the addition of the Solomon Youngman House, 461 Farmington Avenue, to the State Register of Historic Places, on October 3, 2007. The stately home now houses the West End Community Center which provides vital services to the neighborhood. There are plans for a gala to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the house's construction.

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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 will begin by telling you that Hartford did not secure the bid to hold the National Trust for Historic Preservation's National Preservation Conference in 2011. Buffalo, NY won the bid. It was explained to us that we had indeed impressed the committee with the uniqueness, energy and historical importance of Hartford but they decided to support Buffalo at this time because, in Buffalo, over 4,000 buildings are in danger of sweeping demolition to make way for new development. As preservationists we have to agree that preservation efforts at that level are significant. Just after this disappointing announcement, I received a copy of a speech from the National Trust that, in my opinion, justifies their decision.

In December 2007, Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was awarded the Vincent Scully Prize at the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C. With permission, I have excerpted parts of his speech that I hope will inspire readers to find out more about *sustainable stewardship*. One can read the full text of his speech by logging on to the National Trust's web site at www.nationaltrust.org.

He began his speech this way:

SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP: Historic Preservation's Essential Role in Fighting Climate Change

It will come as no surprise to you that the subject of my remarks this evening is historic preservation. What may be a surprise is that I intend to argue that historic preservation has an essential role to play in fighting what may be the greatest crisis of our times – climate change. The story of the National Building Museum encapsulates what historic preservation is all about: When you strip away the rhetoric, preservation is simply having the good sense to hold on to things that are well designed, that link us with our past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them.

This concern with the future is at the core of the new phase that preservation is entering right now: As growing numbers of people are worried about climate change, the degradation of the environment, and our relentless consumption of energy and irreplaceable natural resources, it is increasingly apparent that preservation has an essential role to play in any effort to deal with the environmental crisis that looms over us. Because it necessarily involves the conservation of energy and natural resources, historic preservation has always been the greenest of the building arts. Now it's time to make sure everyone knows it. It's all about sustainability.

I'm not so naive as to believe that preservation represents *the* way out of this environmental crisis. But I do believe that historic preservation can be – and must be – a key component of any effort to promote sustainable development. Indeed, preservation is sustainability. The connection between historic preservation and sustainability is not a new concept. It's something that many people in the preservation community have believed and talked about for many years. They understand that preservation is "the ultimate recycling." The key phrase is "sustainable stewardship."

The retention and reuse of older buildings is an effective tool for the responsible, sustainable stewardship of our environmental resources – *including those that have already been expended*. I'm talking about what's called "embodied energy." Here's the concept in a nutshell: Buildings are vast repositories of energy. It takes energy to manufacture or extract building materials, more energy to transport them to a construction site, still more energy to assemble them into a building. All of that energy is embodied in the finished structure – and if the structure is demolished and land-filled, the energy locked up in it is totally wasted. What's more, the process of demolition itself uses more energy – and, of course, the construction of a new building in its place uses more yet. It all comes down to this simple fact: We can't build our way out of the global warming crisis. We have to *conserve* our way out. That means we have to make better, wiser use of what we've already built. Here's what we have to keep in mind: No matter how much green technology is employed in its design and construction, any new building represents a new impact on the environment. The bottom line is that the greenest building is one that already exists.

Over the years, as the focus of our work has evolved, we've demonstrated that preservation is good for the pocketbook as well as the soul. Now, in the face of unprecedented climate change, we're prepared to demonstrate that preservation is an essential tool for sustaining the environmental viability of the planet as well as the quality of life for ourselves and our children.

I agree that Mr. Moe has it right. I ask that you add his thoughts to the discussion on the connections between historic preservation, economic development, and for the sake of the "greening" of our state — sustainable stewardship. Hartford has thousands of good usable buildings: commercial, residential and public, each of them impact the quality of our lives and our future.

News from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism: Historic Preservation & Museum Division

Congratulations to **Karen Senich**, who has been appointed by Governor Jodi Rell to serve as the Commissioner of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCCT) and as the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). We wish her every success in her new position.

Mary Dunne joined the Historic Preservation and Museum Division as the Local Government Grants Coordinator. After receiving her MA in Preservation Studies from Boston University she worked for two years as the Preservation Services Officer for the New Haven Preservation Trust. Prior to coming to the CCCT, she was the Executive Director of the Manchester Historical Society. In addition to coordinating grants for Certified Local Governments, Mary is also the contact person for Local Historic District Commissions and now processes the State Historic Homes Tax Credit applications.

Most recently Curator of Historic Properties of the Mark Twain House & Museum, **Wayne Gannaway** joined the Historic Preservation and Museum Division as Construction Grants Coordinator. At The Mark Twain House, Wayne oversaw the restoration and preservation of Twain's house, kitchen wing, carriage house and landscape. Prior to that, he was project manager for the Minnesota Historical Society's historic sites division where he worked with the state and local governments and community groups to evaluate the preservation and development of an historic site. Wayne earned his MA in Historic Preservation from Western Kentucky University and his BA in History from the University of Minnesota.

Jennifer Haag has joined the Historic Preservation and Museum Division as a Processing Technician. Jennifer reports that it is a joy to be working with such great people and her job is growing by leaps and bounds every day. She looks forward to a bright future there.

Stacey Vairo began her position as State and National Register Coordinator in mid-January. She received her M. F. A. in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design and her B.A. from UCONN in Art History. Since getting her degree, Ms. Vairo worked as a private consultant and as an Architectural Historian for a Hartford-based transportation planning company.

The Historic Preservation and Museum Division of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism has moved to new offices at One Constitution Plaza, 2nd Floor, Hartford, CT 06103. They have vacated the Amos Bull House, 59 South Prospect Street, which will be taken over by Connecticut Landmarks, formerly the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society. The house abuts the grounds of the Butler-McCook House & Garden, a property of CT Landmarks.

Volunteers *-Continued from Page 8*

Hartford for about six months, and helping HPA for most of that time doing survey work and the data entry, Castro says of her job experience; "My background is in preservation—in Brazil I work for the government. I have a Masters [degree] in preservation." Karmazinas is earning his graduate degree in Urban Planning, and came to HPA to do some detail work for his degree.

He said, "As for me, I came to HPA through a recommendation of one of my professors. *Googling* "preservation groups in Hartford"

**Remember the Uncle Sam
"I Want You" poster?
Then think of this article
as the updated, HPA version
of that wartime declaration—
and consider yourself asked
to be a part of HPA!**

gave me two possibilities; a state agency and the Hartford Preservation Alliance. Looking at HPA's web page, I decided HPA is what my professor was looking for when I was offered an opportunity to work with a preservation group in Hartford that was looking for an intern for the summer." Mary Falvey is a realtor who works a half day a week in the office. Presently she is creating a database of all the architects who have designed buildings in Hartford. She also does research, when needed to confirm the address, locations and building types for this new database.

When I arrived for my interview, I was surprised how flexible Laura and Tomas were once they found out that I wasn't a history major, but an English major. However, they worked with my talents and love of writing, so that when I wasn't out in the field doing survey work, I was researching and writing for HPA. What I appreciated is that both Knott-Twine and Nenortas worked with my strengths not only to make my time with HPA not only an asset to them, but also enjoyable learning experience for me at the same time."

So what is the wish list for volunteers? Survey work may be what you want to do or you may want to consider assisting HPA with their walking tours of the city; or perhaps data entry, research, or filing and organizing materials. You might be interested in helping with fund raising events or property advocacy might be up your alley; you can help the preservation efforts of particular buildings, streets, or even neighborhoods by joining in.

Do you want to be part of the successes at HPA? Want to have fun? Want to volunteer but are you unsure of where to start? Contact the Hartford Preservation Alliance for an appointment to discuss your interests and our needs!

Supporting HPA

We wish to thank all of the donors of the over 700 contributions made in 2007. HPA's members and donors are an integral part of sustaining our organization. Funding an organization has many parts and they are all interconnected. We are most thankful for the continued support of preserving Hartford's unique architectural heritage and revitalization of our neighborhoods and streetscapes. Throughout the year we send out invitations to people asking for their support. We hope you will consider a donation and membership in 2008.

HPA has been financed in part by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, the New Alliance Foundation and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, in cooperation with the Connecticut Humanities Council. 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.



Town & County Club of Hartford, CT



Crosskey Architects, LLC



Ted Amenta and A & Company



Bi-Glass Windows



Carlos Mouta



Atera Enterprises LLC Property Development

New England Management, Corp. 56 Arbor Street office rentals



Dixon & Company, Affiliated, Inc. Accounting Services



Schoenhardt Architecture & Interior Design



Updates

The following preservation grants have been secured:

Hartford Preservation Alliance, \$2,000, for training workshops for owners and contractors to help comply with the Hartford Preservation Ordinance – *CT Trust Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant*

First Church of Christ, \$8,000, capital needs assessment to create a maintenance plan for its meeting house – *CT Trust Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant*



Trinity Episcopal Church, \$200,000, for slate roof work – *Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Restoration Grant*

Old North Cemetery, \$25,000, study for the revitalization of the city owned cemetery – *Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Historic Preservation Activities Fund*



The former Office Supply building, at 390 Capitol Avenue in Frog Hollow, will be converted to 113 market rate apartments. Remediation and construction will begin in early summer with occupancy toward the end of 2009. Tarragon Corporation, the developer, will use Federal and State Tax Rehabilitation credits for the adaptive reuse project.

Hartford Preservation Alliance has been named by the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) as a Local Partner. We are the first in the state and there are only 45 in the United States. To be named a Local Partner an applicant must meet certain criteria. NTHP states, "Organizations must demonstrate a high capability of implementing their preservation mission within their states and regions. Partners are considered to be the most effective and stable organization in the preservation movement, representing the cutting edge of the preservation delivery and mobilization system." We are proud to have met the qualifications.



The Knox Parks Foundation is now under contract with the City of Hartford to remove graffiti from public and private property throughout Hartford except the Business Improvement District. Requests for service should go through the City's 3-1-1 service (dial 311 or 757-9311 from cell phones or some business systems). Callers should indicate an address or street location (e.g.-southeast corner of Laurel and Capitol) and a description of the graffiti

(e.g.-black spray paint on traffic control box). During warmer weather, their goal is to handle calls within a week of receiving them.

Demolished!

-Continued from Page 7

At about the same time, the city also decided to demolish the four-story 1912 brick apartment house at 140 Homestead Avenue, on the corner of Edgewood Street - a building owned by the city's own Redevelopment Agency. Although HPA was not informed of the imminent demolition, it learned of it two days before the bulldozer was to come. Much last-minute crisis



intervention, in which structural engineer James Grant volunteered his time to HPA, resulted in the city delaying demolition. HPA was successful in finding several experienced developers who were willing to take title to the building and rehabilitate it. In early November, however, a portion of the brickwork fell off of the back wall, and the city was no longer willing to wait. The building was demolished before arrangements could be made to put a developer into place.

HPA believes that the communications gap that allowed it to be caught off guard by these demolition orders has been closed. It is optimistic that, in the future, it will be notified by the city at an earlier stage. If this happens, it will greatly increase the likelihood that even seriously deteriorated historic buildings can be saved.

Threatened Again!



The Capewell Horse Nail Factory has been nominated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's **11 Most Endangered Historic Places**. The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation has also named the factory to its **Most Important Threatened Historic Places in Connecticut** for a second time. First placed on the CT Trust list in 2001, the landmark building on Charter Oak Avenue in the Sheldon-Charter Oak neighborhood has severely deteriorated to the point where HPA Executive Director Laura

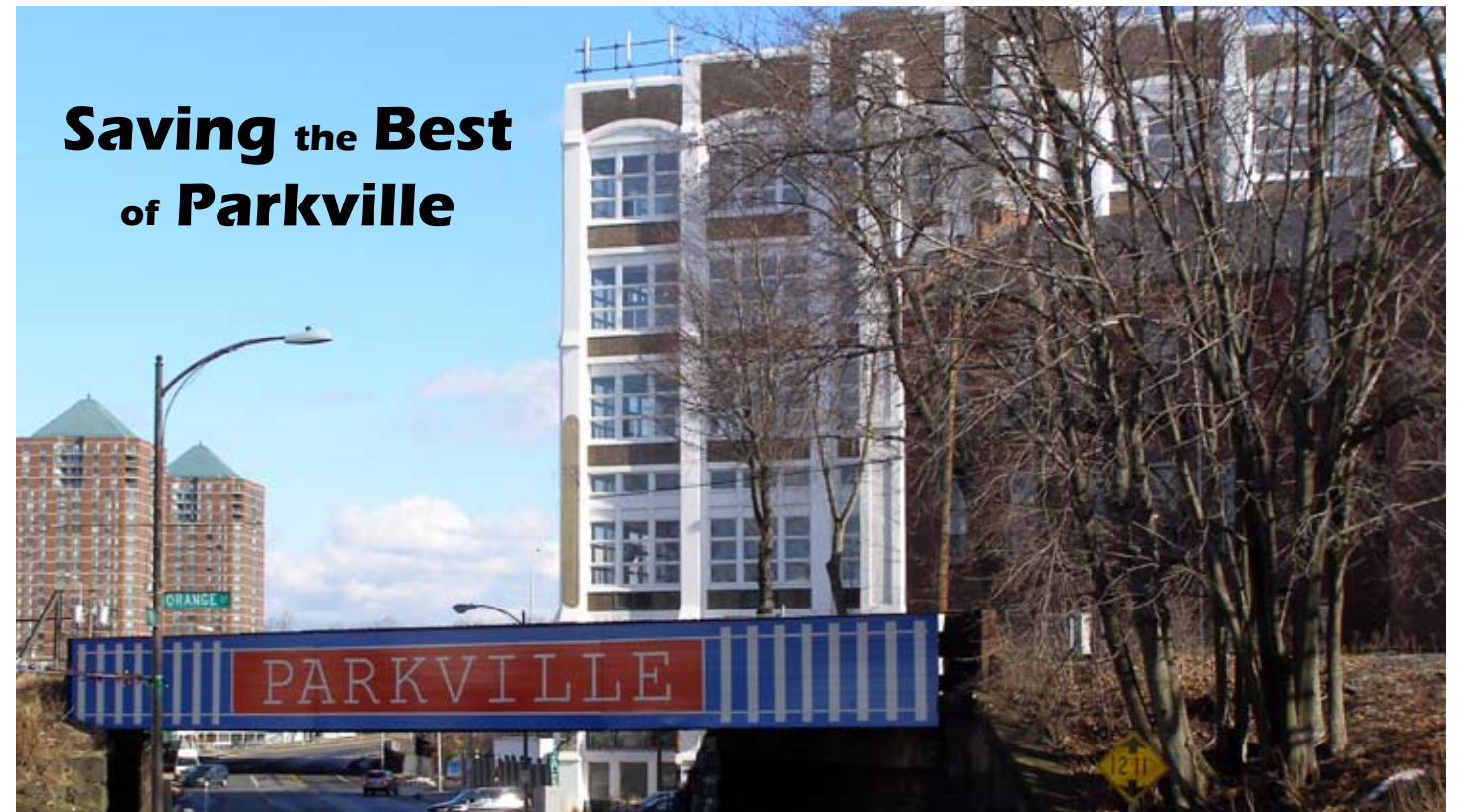
Knott-Twine has stated "if work on restoring the building is put off for two more years, the building may then be beyond saving."

Developer John Reveruzzi's plans called for renovating the factory as market-rate condos, but lack of funding has allowed the factory to deteriorate. The owner has been unable to properly secure the building due to the sheer size and number of windows and doors. This cost-prohibitive dilemma has allowed unauthorized persons to enter the building. As a result, numerous fires have been started which have wrought much damage even though the factory was rebuilt in 1903 as a fire-proof factory after a 1901 fire destroyed the original edifice. It has been open to the elements for many years and continued exposure to the merciless New England seasons will further deteriorate the structure to the point of no return.

What is needed is funding to meet the financing gap to get the project moving as well as properly secure the building until renovations can begin.

The Capewell Factory was founded in 1881 by inventor George Capewell who created a technique for cold rolling steel to make horseshoe nails. The factory, built of fireproof construction, has a roof-line parapet with a central decorative feature that is similar to its neighbor to the east, The Atlantic Screw Works. The Romanesque Revival square tower with a tall pyramidal slate roof, a characteristic 19th-century architectural statement, is one of the last of its kind in Hartford. Hartford was once filled with colossal factory sites but due to "urban renewal" and arson, evidence of the city's manufacturing past have all but been erased.

The Capewell is a link to America's past. Hartford was brought to national and international prominence by the successes of Capewell and other Industrial Revolution visionary companies such as Colt, Underwood, Royal, and Pratt & Whitney. The Capewell Horseshoe Nail Factory is truly one of the last vestiges of an economic powerhouse city, state, region and even country where a majority of products where invented, produced and marketed world-wide. Its survival is crucial to maintaining such a historic link to our nation's industrial past.



Saving the Best of Parkville

It is interesting to know that Parkville is one of the smallest neighborhoods in Hartford and by some miracle more than 95 percent of its original buildings are still standing! In the book *Styles and Structures* by Gregory Andrews and David Ransom, the introduction to the Parkville section states that from the beginning of its development in the 1870s, Parkville has always been a hard working community and that most of Parkville's buildings date primarily from 1890-1915. One cannot help noticing the interesting mix of architectural styles present in the neighborhood and the trees that line most of the streets are a bonus. The effect is really unique for a city; one thinks of an industrial area as just that, industrial looking, not full of charming buildings and family homes on tree-lined streets. However, that has always been the look of Parkville; one could have a factory, then just a few steps away from a business, there was the peace, quiet, and serenity of homes that were built at the turn of 20th century. Parkville has survived to serve many generations of Hartford's incoming immigrants, and continues to do so successfully. One of the reasons is that the housing stock is still solid; another is that schools and churches abound in this area. Another reason for Parkville's survival is that within the neighborhood are many smaller ethnic neighborhoods which support and serve Parkville's residents.

The factories that once housed the industries of Parkville are now commercial mixed-use buildings housing restaurants, professional offices, arts spaces and studios, including architectural firms and design services. This shows that even though the large companies that built the factories may be gone, the buildings can survive, and with a little assistance can be rehabilitated into workable space—offering future generations a place to live, play and work. Advocates are exploring the possibility of creating a Parkville historic district which will help protect these historic assets in one of Hartford's most unique neighborhoods.

May is Preservation Month Save These Dates!

Colt Lecture Series



Tuesdays, 6 pm
May 6, 13, 20, 27
June 3, 10

An array of topics and speakers on the Colt Legacy.

Contact HPA at 860-570-0331 for more information.

Hartford Walking Tours



Saturdays,
May 3, 10, 17, 31
10 am

Co-sponsored by HPA and CT Landmarks

Contact HPA at 860-570-0331 for more information.

Asylum Hill Tours



Sargeant Street and Ashley Street neighborhoods

Wednesday, May 14

Contact NINA at 860-244-9390 for more information.

CT Landmarks Debut May 15, 5:30 pm, Butler McCook House & Garden, 396 Main Street, Contact CTL at 860-247-8996, ext. 12 for more information.

Demolished!



The demolition last fall of two early 1900s buildings in Upper Albany has been a stimulus to efforts to revive a working arrangement between HPA and the city for consultation on potential demolitions in historic districts. Unknown to HPA, the city had discontinued an earlier informal agreement, which became evident only when the city implemented demolition orders of which HPA had been unaware.

The building at 1088 Albany Avenue, a once-beautiful 1908 Victorian at the corner of Oakland Terrace, was

particularly painful because of HPA's long involvement with the building. When HPA was organized in 1997, one of the first buildings in which it invested substantial time and effort was 1088 Albany Avenue. This was the first building for which HPA assembled a volunteer development team that included an architect, a business planner, and an attorney to help the owner, a lay person, develop a plan and seek funding for rehabilitation. Unfortunately, although success always seemed right around the corner, the cost of rehabilitating this seriously deteriorated building was a huge obstacle for the owner, and several funding prospects fell through. The building eventually changed ownership. Last fall, the city decided that the building was too deteriorated and, without warning, it was taken down by the city. The demolition was half complete by the time that HPA learned of it.

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Do your time and talents lean towards historic preservation?

WE WANT YOU!

Henry Armeth worked as an Intern from Trinity College at HPA over the summer of 2007. He wrote many articles on neighborhoods and historic buildings. He wanted to write a story on the importance of volunteering for HPA. He also wanted to introduce the staff and interview some of the current volunteers as a way to convince others to offer their time and expertise to volunteer for preservation activities that can be an interesting and fun experience.

He wrote: "Laura Knott-Twine is the Executive Director of HPA; she is also a university professor of Business Studies including Historic Preservation and Urban Studies. Her energy and optimism are contagious, and her love of Hartford—her native city—is also very evident. Her family has been in Hartford for twelve generations [since 1636] and even by her own admission it is hard to be in Hartford and not run into familiar ancestral names.

Also on staff is Tomas Nenortas, Historic Resources Advisor "I would like to see the city revitalized. My challenge is to help create a Hartford where historic buildings are regarded as assets, not liabilities." It seems Nenortas is deeply invested in that goal by his dedication to his job as well as his vast knowledge and collections. Nenortas is the author of several books on Hartford; *Victorian Hartford* and *Victorian Hartford Revisited*, both illustrated with photos and postcards from his personal collection.

What both Laura and Tomas know, however, is what really helps to make HPA so successful is the assistance of volunteers/interns. This is because when people come to HPA, they bring with them singularly personal experiences. Each and every person who comes forward to assist is important in his or her own special manner. For example, in the summer of 2007 there were five people assisting HPA; a college professor, a professional architect, a graduate student, a real estate agent and an undergraduate student; all five at different stages in their lives as well as their education. The personalities were as varied as the ages and backgrounds of the myriad of people who are involved with HPA. One aspect of



this dynamic in action, which HPA executive director, Laura Knott-Twine is personally proud of is, that she has encouraged people of all ages—from fifteen to eighty-five years—to join the preservation efforts. She has an infectious enthusiasm and taking full advantage of her asset, manages to inspire and attract people to the HPA cause. She has even managed to interest several tenants that work in the Arbor Street building to join the efforts of HPA!

"My background is in African American History, and I was looking for information on Black Governors..." says Katherine Harris, a professor of history at Central Connecticut State University; however, it was through a different path that she found the Hartford Preservation Alliance. She cites the Annual HPA Preservation Awards ceremony in 2006 at City Hall as being the first time she heard of HPA. There are many reasons as to why Harris continues to volunteer with the Alliance; one of the most important reasons is that she feels the work she is doing for HPA is personally fulfilling because as a historian, she understands the reasons why we need to preserve our history. Noting that she is involved in the documentation of potentially historic buildings, as well as participating in the survey work and even entering the data into the database, "I see these tasks as equally important," Harris says.

There is certainly no shortage of work that needs to be done in the office, from data entry to survey work. Two recent people who have been participating in the survey work include a Brazilian Architect, Daniela Castro, and a grad student from Central Connecticut State University, Lucas Karmazinas. Castro, who accompanied her husband to this country so he can study at Trinity College, was surfing the Internet and..."I did a search with preservation and architecture...and found HPA!" she says. Having been in

— Continued on Page 11

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.

News from the Board



HPA is pleased to announce the election of a new President of the Board of Directors. Todd Doyle has been an active member of HPA since 2006. He is a lawyer in the Tax Department of the Hartford law firm of Shipman & Goodwin, LLP. He is thrilled to witness the convergence of various commercial, governmental and community organization efforts to revitalize Hartford. Todd holds a Ph.D. in American Literature and teaches part-time at UCONN's Greater Hartford's campus. He is especially interested in Hartford's literary legacy. He resides in West Hartford with his wife and two sons.

Three members have left the HPA Board. We would like to thank and acknowledge the work of past president, Lynn Ferrari, who has been a strong advocate for historic preservation for years. She continues to serve on the Hartford Historic Properties & Preservation Commissions. Board members Kevin Flood and Marguerite Carnell Rodney has also moved on and we thank them for their much appreciated participation.



Natalie M. Sweeney has recently joined the Board. Natalie is a Connecticut native and an architect for Lifecare Design Inc., an architecture firm recently relocated to Parkville from Ridgefield, CT. Her interest in the industrial age neighborhood and its revitalization efforts stems from her experience in urban and rural revitalization in Saintes, France where she studied urbanism and later worked for a county managing revitalization projects, particularly Romanesque churches. She later combined tourism with preservation creating an information system that is presently installed in three counties in southwestern France. Natalie is a member of the Parkville Business Association and as an HPA Board member is excited about contributing to the preservation efforts in Hartford.

The staff and the board of directors gratefully acknowledge the work of Linda Osten who passed away recently. She worked tirelessly to improve Hartford's neighborhoods and we are thankful for her vision, spirit, and dedication to Hartford. Our condolences to Lynn Ferrari and Linda's family for the loss of such an inspiring soul.



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.

HPA Workshops for Contractors and Those who Plan to do Work on Hartford's Historic Buildings

In December of 2006, the city of Hartford passed a Preservation Ordinance (HPO) that protects the over 4,000 buildings that are listed on National, State and Local Registries. The ordinance requires that every building permit that is applied for be approved by the city and/or the Hartford Historic Properties & Preservation Commissions to assure that historic buildings maintain their historic integrity and that plans for façade work on said buildings meet the "Hartford Design Guidelines." The Guidelines were developed with the information found in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation*. Hartford Preservation Alliance (HPA) played a key role in the drafting and passing of this important ordinance and is listed as a primary resource for building owners on all city materials concerning this ordinance.

This new ordinance requires certain permissions for those working on any of the historic buildings in Hartford; HPA feels it is imperative that training is offered to ensure compliance and satisfaction of façade work being performed. City staff in the Department of Development Services support this view. By training those who will be doing work on historic buildings in Hartford, we see contractors and building/home owners alike becoming aware of their responsibilities as good stewards of Hartford's historic assets.

A Certificate earned by attending and participating at the workshop will facilitate a smoother interaction between the city staff and contractors because it will indicate that those holding a Hartford Preservation Alliance Historic Contractor's Certificate understand the rules and regulations and are willing partners in preservation work being done in the city. Additionally, contractors can use their Certificate as a marketing tool as "proof" that they are able to work on buildings in historic districts with an understanding of the Hartford Preservation Ordinance requirements and are familiar with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Historic Preservation*.

After evaluating the program we hope to continue to offer it to contractors on an annual basis and perhaps additionally adjust the curriculum for homeowners in the future. The workshops will be offered this spring at HPA offices on Arbor Street. The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation has awarded a grant to HPA to help defray the cost of preparing the curriculum and the costs of materials and equipment. Contractors who have applied for building permits over the past 2 years will receive a direct mailing inviting them to participate in the training. If you or anyone you know may be interested in learning more, please contact us at our office.

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation proudly announces its new **Barn Grant!**

In the past two years, the Connecticut Trust has surveyed almost 900 barns across the state. This survey has yielded a wealth of information about Connecticut's agricultural history and buildings, but it has also highlighted the threats that face many historic barns and related structures.

In December 2007, the Trust took a step toward helping these endangered buildings when the Board of Trustees approved a new grant program dedicated to historic barns. This program will allow the Trust to help owners evaluate buildings for structural integrity, for historic significance and for feasible uses other than agricultural. The grants will be funded through the Connecticut General Assembly, the Connecticut Humanities Council and the Commission on Culture and Tourism.

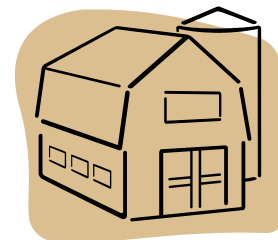
Many of Hartford's carriage barns may be eligible to apply for this program.

The grants will be offered to non-profit and municipal barn owners, as well as to private owners — a sector for which little, if any, help is currently available. Applicants should be able to demonstrate community-level significance, support from a local historical organization or municipality or from a local agricultural group, and a public benefit from the grant.

The Trust's Barns Grant can be used for assessments of historic integrity and structural conditions, nominations to the National Register, evaluation of adaptive use opportunities.

In addition to the new grants program, the Trust is continuing a number of other barn-related activities through the winter and spring of 2008. One goal is to add 800 more listings to the inventory of historic barns by the end of June. Preservation Services officer Todd Levine plans to offer numerous barn survey training sessions for local preservationists during the spring and summer.

Finally, in order to share its new-found information about barns and barn preservation with the public, the Trust is working to expand www.connecticutbarns.org and exploring the possibility of publishing a book on Connecticut barns.



For more information on Barn Grants or other historic barns initiative programs, contact Todd Levine at barns@cttrust.org or 203-562-6312.

Local Initiatives -Continued from Page 1

There are plans to convert the remaining remnant of the North-West Jones School at 1240 Albany Avenue, in the Upper Albany neighborhood, into the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center. The school was placed on the State Register of Historic Places and plans have been evolving for the adaptive reuse project. In fact, The National Trust for Historic Preservation's Northeast office allocated \$2,500 to The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation to work with the center in developing a fundraising plan, feasibility study, and a design & content strategy of future exhibition spaces. Four Northeast groups were awarded this funding that supports preservation of African American history.



The developers of the former Austin Organ Company building at 158 Woodland Street, in Asylum Hill, had the structure placed on the State Register of Historic Places on October 3, 2007. The renovation specifications call for converting the 73,537 square foot building to 28 residential New York City loft-style condominium units. The owners intend to use the State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program to help off-set construction costs.

Asylum Hill resident, Victor Vega, on his own initiative, had his brick Queen-Anne home at 95 Huntington Street listed on the State Register on November 7, 2007. He takes great care of the graceful abode which has a nearly intact, untouched interior, and plans on placing the original shutters back on the house and restoring the front porch to its original glory.



HPA led the effort to place the former Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company building on the State Register of Historic Places. The stately 1926 structure was unanimously approved for this honor on March 5, 2008. Built to the designs of Benjamin Wistar Morris, the insurance campus, located at 140 Garden Street, has had a home in the Asylum Hill neighborhood for 82 years.

Congratulations to all for efforts in preserving and revitalizing Hartford's unique architectural heritage and neighborhood character!!!

Preservation Month is Coming!
Invitations for our members to participate at the Annual HPA Preservation Awards will be sent soon!
This popular gathering is part of May's Preservation Month which will be full of enticing events.

Two New Preservation Measures Approved in 2007 by Legislature

Part of the work Laura Knott-Twine participates in is serving on the Board of Directors of Connecticut Preservation Action. Over 40 preservation groups in the state of Connecticut have joined forces to advocate for legislative action on preservation issues. As a result of last year's work the following items were adopted:

1 New State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, "An Act Concerning Youth Opportunities and Urban Revitalization," is in addition to Connecticut's state historic tax credit approved in 2006, which applies to the conversion of historic commercial or industrial buildings to residential use. The new law makes mixed-use projects also eligible for rehabilitation tax credits in the same types of buildings. In addition, this new law provides a higher credit to projects that include affordable housing, increasing the credit from 25 to 30 percent.

2 Demolition Delay Law Expanded. A second new law, "An Act Concerning Demolition of Buildings," allows municipalities to pass Delay of Demolition ordinances of up to 180 days. This expands the previous 90-day delay sponsored by CPA in 1983. Currently more than 40 towns in Connecticut have adopted Delay of Demolition ordinances. Hartford currently has a 90 day policy. HPA is working toward increasing it to 180 days.

A Historic Preservation Appeals Board has been established for applicants who need to appeal decisions of the Historic Preservation Commission. It is made up of three Hartford residents – Edwin Vargas, Ken Johnson, and Rhonda Leonard Woods. To date there have been no appeals, which is a testament to the efforts of HPA, city staff, the commission and applicants in working out preservation needs and issues.