



## **The Seymour Family** ***For the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the former Stackpole, Moore, Tryon Building, 105 Asylum Street***

This landmark four-story building at the corner of Asylum and Trumbull Streets in the heart of downtown has been individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1978. It is an outstanding example of how buildings can be adapted to suit modern uses without losing their architectural integrity. Timothy Allyn, a prominent landowner and former mayor of Hartford, built the original structure in the mid-1850s.

The Seymour family, the seventh generation of Allyn descendants to own the building, has been faithful stewards of this iconic building and have now completed an important restoration of the facade while adapting the interior for new tenants.

The building is well-known for its distinctive two-story cast-iron front, which was added in 1896. At the time, the building was occupied by the Willis & Wilson clothing store, which in 1909 became Stackpole, Moore & Tryon. Architect Isaac Allen, also the architect of the Sage Allen Building on Main Street, designed the cast-iron front, with intricate classical details, such as fluted Ionic columns. The use of cast iron permitted the installation of broad display windows that let sunlight flood into the first and second floor retail space.

The \$4.6 million renovation added new elevators, heating and cooling systems, and staircases, and created emergency exits that replaced the old fire escape, which had been visible from the street. Special elements of the building's history, such as the word "Hatters" painted on the exterior to advertise a fourth floor tenant from many years ago, were preserved. The key to the renovation proved to be finding Sovereign Bank as a tenant. The bank, which leases three of the building's four floors, was itself responsible for most of the interior renovation and made a major financial investment of its own in the conversion of the interior to banking uses.



## **Trinity College & Tyler Smith/Smith Edwards Architects** *For the restoration of the Long Walk*

In 1872, Trinity College moved to its present Summit Street site, when its former location at the crest of Bushnell Park was sold to the State for the new State Capitol. In 1873, the notable English architect, William Burges, designed the new campus in the High Victorian Collegiate Gothic style. The original Long Walk was part of the first set of buildings constructed in 1878 as the west side of what was intended to become a quadrangle. Eventually achieving a length of 925 feet along the Summit Street ridge, Long Walk is the preeminent feature of Trinity's campus.

The Long Walk was listed on the State Register of Historic Places in 1997. By 2006, however, serious deterioration of the roof and masonry had been detected and an ambitious restoration plan was developed for Trinity by [Smith Edwards Architects](#) and implemented. The effect is stunning. Long Walk's masonry walls have been strengthened and repointed, its slate roof and ridge tiles replaced, new copper flashing installed, and its old windows restored or replaced with new cast iron ones modeled on the originals. The interiors have been completely redesigned, with all new systems and state-of-the-art educational technology. A key feature of this work was reestablishing the suite layout of Burges' original design for Jarvis Hall, but without the valet quarters that were once included for Trinity's wealthier students. The suites have common living rooms surrounded by bedrooms and details such as fireplaces and window seats. An original 1845 cornerstone from the first campus was discovered during the restoration and is now on display. The original landscape, altered over time, has also been enhanced and upgraded.



## **Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance** ***For the Revitalization of the Asylum Hill neighborhood***

The [Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance](#), better known as “[NINA](#),” was created in 2001 by a group of major Asylum Hill institutions, including The Hartford, Aetna, St. Francis Hospital, and Webster Bank, to promote the revitalization of Asylum Hill by stimulating community involvement and investment. A significant part of that work has been the rehabilitation of deteriorated buildings and their resale for home ownership. In past years, NINA has received Preservation Awards for the relocation of 47 Sigourney Street and the rehabilitation of five buildings on Ashley and Garden Streets.

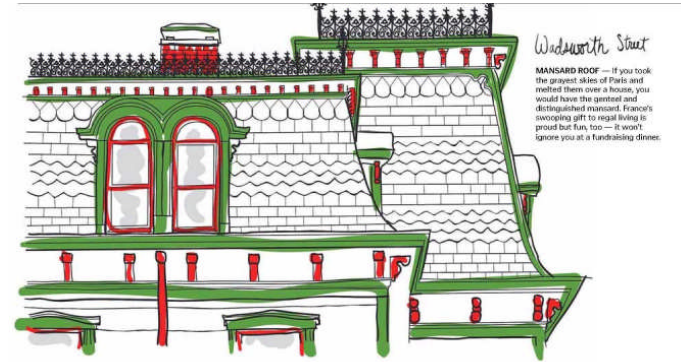
NINA is currently involved in rehabilitation projects on Ashley, Sargeant, and Atwood Street. Its most recently completed rehabilitations are both on Sargeant Street. 246 Sargeant Street, built in 1897, is a very special building. Known by area residents as the “Castle,” its Queen Anne turret and gables are an Asylum Hill landmark. The first floor is faced with 8-inch-thick granite blocks. The upper floors feature three different types of shingles. 227 Sargeant Street, built in 1899, combines Queen Anne styling with a Dutch gambrel roof. Its first owner, Thomas Honiss, owned the former Honiss Oyster House, once Hartford’s legendary seafood restaurant.

Rehabilitation activity, however, represents only part of NINA’s activities; and today we award NINA for its overall role in the revitalization of the Asylum Hill neighborhood. On Ashley Street, for example, NINA has provided new vintage streetlights, sidewalks, and historic date markers. It is collaborating with Rebuilding Together and AARP to provide free safety and home repair services to Asylum Hill homeowners. It is involved in gardening, landscaping, and painting projects. It has provided bicycles, security cameras, and cell phones to the Hartford Police Department for use in Asylum Hill. NINA has thus become a force for the energizing and revitalization of an entire neighborhood.

**Nancy Schoeffler, editor Andrew Friedman,  
Ananda Walden, Bob MacDonnell, contributors  
For the illustrated Hartford Courant article on  
Hartford architectural styles**

In 2008, Nancy Schoeffler, Editor of the Home section of The Hartford Courant, organized an article on Hartford architectural styles for the Home section. She contacted Hartford resident Andrew Friedman, a freelance writer who has written about architecture, landscape, and the built environment for The Courant, as well as for the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune, Newsday, and other publications. He is also a teaching fellow at Yale on architecture and American culture. Andrew developed the idea and spent three days driving the city to identify specific buildings that exemplified each of the architectural features he chose. The Courant brought in photographer Bob MacDonnell to take pictures and graphic designer Ananda Walden to create colorful sketches of each architectural element from the photographs.

The resulting article, which occupies the entire front page of the June 20, 2008, Home section of The Courant, is a whimsical tour of 11 architectural elements found often in Hartford buildings – from a Mansard roof on Wadsworth Street, which Andrew called “France’s swooping gift to regal living,” to a Corinthian column on Congress Street, described as “the only bouquet of flowers strong enough to hold up stone.” Entitled “Hartford’s Character: The Bones of the City’s Architecture Help Shape Its Personality,” the article uses a combination of humor and cartoon-like drawings to grab readers of all ages and all interests and to show us the diverse heritage and personalities of our city’s buildings.





## **Christian Activities Council** ***For the rehabilitation of 19 and 29 Edgewood Street***

The rehabilitations of 19 and 29 Edgewood Street are the newest pieces of the Christian Activities Council's "Upper Albany Revitalization Initiative," which seeks to work with neighborhood residents to revitalize a 15-block area in Upper Albany. These three-story, red brick "Perfect Sixes," built in 1909, were designed by prolific Hartford architect William Scoville. They had long been vacant and were in severe disrepair, seriously adding to the blight on Edgewood Street between Homestead and Albany Avenues. Both were at great risk of demolition, and both required emergency stabilization, including new roofs, back walls, and temporary shoring, before full construction could begin. Indeed, the roof at 19 Edgewood Street had collapsed, and its interior was so damaged that almost all the flooring and joists had to be replaced.

Notwithstanding the severity of the deterioration, both buildings have now been beautifully restored to historic standards throughout. Funding came from many sources, including the state, the city, and the historic tax credit program. Each building has been redesigned as two side-by-side townhouses, with each townhouse having a large unit on the upper two floors for the owner and a smaller rental unit on the first floor. Thus, each of these six-family buildings will now house four families. Buyers are required to go through an eight-hour ownership training program.

The successful rehabilitation of these two buildings is an example of how even the most deteriorated of historic properties can be saved.





**Immanuel Hudson House, Inc.**  
***For the architecturally sensitive construction of in-fill housing, 363 Hudson Street “The Seasons”***

Immanuel House is a nine-story modern apartment building for seniors located at 15 Woodland Street in Asylum Hill. Several years ago, the owner obtained federal funding to build a senior housing development behind the existing building in the area between the Immanuel House and the North Branch of the Park River. The buildings would have been linked in a multiple-building campus. Because of the danger of flooding, however, it could not get city approval. But, with funding in place, it was able to obtain a large vacant lot on Hudson Street that was owned by the City. The developer met with the South Downtown Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Committee (known as “SoDo”) and, with its advice, designed the building to pick up some of the characteristics of the row houses in Boston’s Back Bay and on Buckingham Street and Capitol Avenue in Hartford.

The result was a four-story 40-unit red brick apartment building that is a good fit for the SoDo neighborhood. It is named “The Seasons of Hartford,” with each of the four floors suggesting one of the four seasons. The building hugs the sidewalk line in a manner similar to the pre-1900 building immediately to its south and has articulated walls that give texture to the street side of the building. The front entrance at the northern end is semi-circular and follows the brick design of the rest of the building. It is compatible with the size, massing, and materials of the nearby building, and it picks up the themes of other historic buildings in the neighborhood. In addition, the design process through which the owner voluntarily went is a model of consultation and cooperation with neighborhood residents that resulted in a design with which the neighborhood is quite satisfied.

## University of Hartford & Tyler Smith, Tyler Smith Architects

### *For the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of the former Thomas Cadillac Building*

At the corner of Albany Avenue and Westbourne Parkway at the junction of the Blue Hills and Upper Albany neighborhoods is a building that once housed a 55,000 square foot automobile dealership. It was built in 1929 for General Motors to the design of Albert Kahn, well known for his commercial and industrial buildings, including numerous automobile manufacturing plants in Michigan, the most famous of which was the mile-long Ford River Rouge Plant in Dearborn. Sixty of his buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.



The building was originally occupied by Taber Cadillac, then Daniel Cadillac from 1959 to 1977, and finally Thomas Cadillac until it closed and vacated. The University of Hartford bought the building in 2000 as the future home for a performing arts center to accommodate the Hartt School's need for additional classroom and rehearsal space. [Smith Edwards Architects](#) of Hartford was the lead architect for the project, in collaboration with Howard Performance Architecture of New Orleans.

The rehabilitated structure, now known as the Mort and Irma Handel Performing Arts Center of the University of Hartford, creates an immense amount of space, all located on a single floor. It is amazing to realize that this building, which once was a Cadillac showroom in the front and a repair and assembly facility in the back now contains performance venues, rehearsal and recital rooms, dance studios, space for a numerous supporting activities, and even a branch bank and a café named the Stage Door Café. By bringing the University of Hartford into the Blue Hills and Upper Albany neighborhoods, the new site invites a greater degree of involvement of the University with the city.

## **The Parisky Group: Flora & Sandy Parisky and Jean King For their support of non-profit & preservation work throughout Hartford.**

The Parisky Group provides a broad range of services to address social, community development and public policy issues. Founded in 1983, The Parisky Group assists business, government and nonprofit clients in tackling challenging problems and projects. Their approach is to find short and long-term solutions to complex issues.

Over its 26 year's history the Parisky Group has successfully helped in many preservation efforts in the city of Hartford including:

- Improvement Plan for Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground
- Restoration of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch for Bushnell Park Foundation
- Restoration of Hartford's Christ Church Cathedral
- Replanting and landscape improvement plan for Bushnell Park
- Conservation of Horace Wells Monument in Bushnell Park
- Survey for the Greater Hartford Arts Council documenting 35 public sculptures in the City of Hartford
- Restoration of Corning Fountain in Bushnell Park

In 2004, The Parisky Group was hired by Hartford Preservation Alliance to guide: Membership, Fundraising and Board Development campaigns to strengthen the board of directors. In 2005, as a result of successful funding proposals, Hartford Preservation Alliance hires first Executive Director and opens first office space on Arbor Street. Up until today, The Parisky Group has worked closely with the Hartford Preservation Alliance and its staff to ensure the successful development of long term plans and the transition from an all volunteer organization to a viable and active institution.



**A.R. Godbout & Company**  
***For the restoration of 137 Seymour Street***

This single-family house at 137 Seymour Street near Hartford Hospital was vacant when it was purchased in 2007 by developer Arthur Godbout. Built in 1909 as the home of Otto Grubitz, a skilled worker at the Colt Firearms factory, this 2 1/2-story wood frame structure is in the American Foursquare style. The style is characterized by a square footprint, a hipped roof with an overhang, and a wide front porch, and 137 Seymour is a good example of that style.



When bought by Mr. Godbout, the building needed extensive work. Wood shingles were split, curling, and loose. The deck and trim-board had decayed. The mortar in the stone foundation and retaining walls was deteriorating. The boiler had outlived its life expectancy and the electrical system was far out of date. The new owner removed the exterior shingling on the building and restored the original clapboard siding that was underneath the shingles. All operating systems were replaced or repaired. The original interior wood trim was preserved as much as possible. Landscaping improvements included the construction of a new wrought-iron fence, plantings, and signage.

This picturesque former home now serves as the headquarters of the Legal Department of the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.



## **Immanuel Congregational Church** *For historic window replacement*

The beautiful, light-filled sanctuary of Immanuel Congregational Church has graced the corner of Farmington Avenue and Woodland Street in Asylum Hill for 110 years. Designed by Ernest Flagg and dedicated in 1899, it has among its numerous notable features three enormous arched windows composed of double-sanded glass highlighted with etched ruby flash borders. The smallest of these – the 22-foot by 23-foot window over the church's front entryway across Farmington Avenue from the Mark Twain House – was the most deteriorated and therefore the first candidate for the congregation's plan to restore or replace the three windows.

Restoration of the window was a daunting task. [Stained Glass Resources](#) of Hampden, Massachusetts, which oversaw the project with the assistance of the [Bostwick Company](#) of Hartford, was able to save the copper-clad wood that made up the large members of the window frame, but the smaller 100% copper window divisions had to be replaced. In order to provide the strength of material that was needed and to mimic the original copper as closely as possible, bronze frames were used as replacement. Meanwhile, the window's original red glass proved impossible to remove from the frames without significant breakage, despite valiant efforts by the restoration team. French industrial ruby flash glass, appropriate for replacement, was eventually found at a company in Houston.

The result of this project has been the restoration of the brilliant deep red coloring and intricate design of this spectacular church window. The congregation expects that the process will, in due course, be a model for the restoration of the two remaining windows.

## Riverfront Recapture and the Connecticut Department of Transportation

### *For the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the Bulkeley Bridge*

2008 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the construction of the Bulkeley Bridge, which, with its magnificent granite arches, is one of the nation's great bridges. Its dedication in 1908 was marked by a three-day celebration of parades, speeches, and fireworks, reportedly attended by 250,000 people. Today, 140,000 drivers cross this bridge every day, unaware of the remarkable structure beneath them. Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, the bridge was named for Morgan G. Bulkeley, a former Governor, U.S. Senator, Hartford Mayor, President of Aetna Life Insurance, and President of baseball's National League. He also headed the Commission that supervised the construction of the bridge. Over the past 27 years, Riverfront Recapture and the Connecticut Department of Transportation have worked together in a unique public-private partnership to restore public access to the riverfront. This riverfront revival, which has generated a renewed appreciation of the beauty of the Bulkeley Bridge, set the stage for a month-long celebration of the centennial last fall.



Celebration activities included a rededication ceremony, publication of a book about the bridge's history, distribution of a souvenir poster, and production of six four-foot by eight-foot display panels that provided a visual history of the bridge. The commemorative book – entitled Spanning a Century – The Bulkeley Bridge 1908-2008 – was written and published by the Department of Transportation and contains dozens of historic photographs.

The highlight of the celebration was the temporary lighting of the bridge facades last October, replicating with modern technology the lights that outlined the bridge's arches at the opening ceremony in 1908.