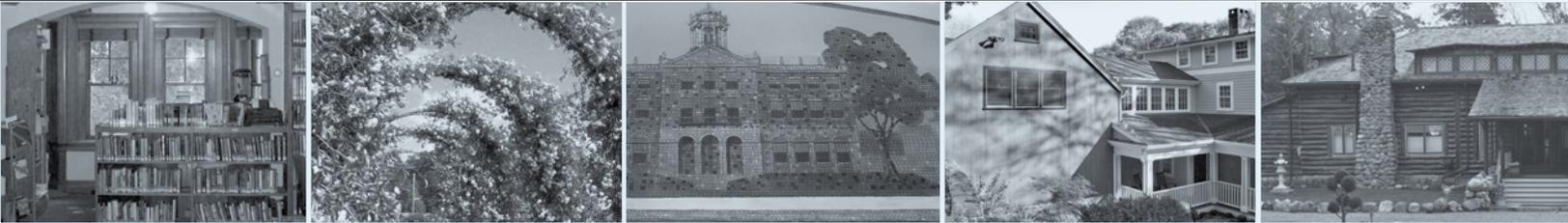




Connecticut Preservation News

May/June 2010

Volume XXXIII, No. 3



Preservation Awards Honor Outstanding Work

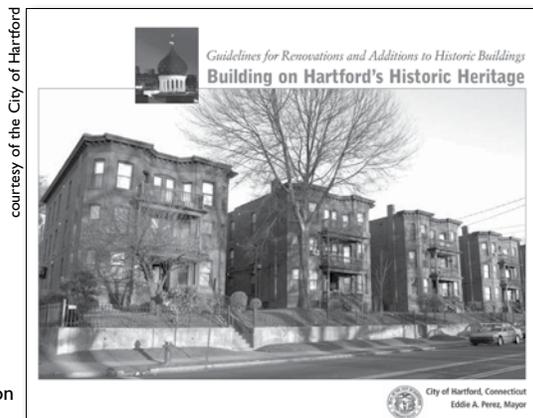
The Connecticut Trust presented its annual Connecticut Preservation Awards on Wednesday, April 7, recognizing outstanding preservation projects and people who have made significant contributions to the preservation of Connecticut's historic buildings and places.

In addition to the Connecticut Preservation Awards, nominated by Trust members for outstanding preservation work, the Trust this year introduced Community Vision Awards, to recognize projects in which the Trust has been substantially involved, either through grants or extensive staff involvement. "We push a lot of things that never come to anything," says Executive Director Helen Higgins. "In these cases communities really stepped up."

COMMUNITY VISION AWARDS

Hartford Preservation Ordinance. In 2005 Hartford became the first municipality in Connecticut to enact a citywide preservation ordinance. Promoted by the Hartford Preservation Alliance and building on background research by the Connecticut Circuit Riders, the ordinance protects some 5,000 buildings and establishes preservation as an overall priority for the city. After a three-year test period, the ordinance became permanent in 2009. The Connecticut Trust hopes that many other cities and towns will follow Hartford's lead.

Hartford
Preservation
Ordinance



G. Farmer



Peters house, Hebron

Peters house, Hebron. This Georgian house was long thought to have been the home of the Loyalist Anglican minister Samuel Peters. Actually, study suggests that the rear wing was a freestanding structure that probably home to the enslaved African-American family of Cesar and Lewis, whom the townspeople helped to rescue from an attempt to sell them in 1787. The Town of Hebron recently acquired the house with a parcel of open space land and has struggled to find a use for the building, even considering selling it to a developer at one point.

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From the Executive Director

At our Annual Meeting on April 7 we said good-bye to three Trustees, each of whom in his and her way made significant contributions to our work.

Sara Bronin served on the board from 2008-10 and was a member of the Program and Projects Committee. In addition, she provided invaluable assistance in her capacity as Associate Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut as we edited the new Handbook for Local Historic District and Property Commissions.

William Hosley had been a trustee since 2005. He also served on the Program and Projects Committee and was especially helpful in our grants review meetings where his expertise in historic preservation as well as in heritage museums informed our discussions.

Adele Strelchun has been a loyal and stalwart trustee since 2004. As former director of Neighborhood Housing Services in Waterbury, Adele came on board to help us with our fledgling Historic Buildings Financing fund. She also helped with grants review and was especially insightful in our annual review of the Circuit Rider program, a partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Our annual meeting and awards ceremony, held in the magnificent rotunda of the State Capitol, was underwritten by MayoCrowe, attorneys in Hartford. We thank Bill Crowe for his continued generous donation to the Trust for this annual event. Also, the Whitneyville Food Center in Hamden, the Trust's go-to lunch place, donated several delicious salads. The event attracted so many people that we had to find extra chairs—always a good sign!

We were saddened to learn of the death of Anne Kuckro, wife of our longstanding former trustee and chairman, Lee Kuckro. Lee and Anne were the model historic preservation couple. As Lee volunteered for preservation statewide with us at the Trust and in Hartford, Anne's focus was on Wethersfield where she was always a gracious and energetic volunteer for all things historic. In her last years she was president of the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of Connecticut which owns and operates the WebbDeanStevens Museum. Her visions



At the Trust's Annual Meeting. Top: William Crowe, MayoCrowe attorneys; Karen Senich, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism; Tod Bryant, Norwalk Preservation Trust; Assistant Attorney General Alan Ponanski; Marcia Howard, chair, Connecticut Humanities Council. Bottom left: Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez and Laura Knott Twine, Executive Director, Hartford Preservation Alliance. Bottom center: Jerry Farrell, Jr., Commissioner Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection; Helen Higgins, Connecticut Trust; and David Bahlman, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. Bottom right: The Trust's incoming and outgoing chairmen, Edmund Schmidt and Jeffrey Muthersbaugh.

for improving both the site of the museum, its buildings and gardens, as well as its educational offerings, are coming to

fruition, a great legacy to her. We send our deep sympathy to Lee and his daughters. 🌸

—Helen Higgins

The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation is a nonprofit statewide membership organization established by a special act of the State Legislature in 1975. Working with local preservation groups and individuals as well as statewide organizations, it encourages, advocates and facilitates historic preservation throughout Connecticut.

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Printing: Kramer Printing, *West Haven*

Connecticut Preservation News is published bimonthly by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06517. Publication is made possible by support of the members of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and by funds provided through the Community Investment Act, Public Act 05-228, Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, State of Connecticut, M. Jodi Rell, Governor. The contents and opinions stated herein do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the State of Connecticut. The Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation assumes no responsibility for the advertisements.

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ISSN 1084-189X



Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism

Bruce Fraser Receives Jainschigg Award

The Connecticut Trust awarded its Janet Jainschigg Award of Excellence to Bruce Fraser, Executive Director of the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC), for his leadership in making our understanding of and appreciation for Connecticut's history central to our lives. The award was presented at the Trust's annual meeting, held at the Capitol on April 7.

Fraser, who holds a doctorate in history from Columbia, has made engaging Connecticut citizens with their state's history his central mission. Under his leadership the Humanities Council has been awarded five Merit Awards for "overall program excellence" and five "Exemplary Project" awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities and has received the Federation of State Humanities Council's Schwartz Prize for "best state council initiative in the nation" four times.

Many of Fraser's projects trace his commitment to make history accessible and, most recently doing this by using up-to-date technology. His brief and accessible state history *The Land of Steady Habits* that he wrote in 1988 for the Connecticut Historical Commission has had lasting value. For the "Connecticut Experience," series of history documentaries on public television that he edited exhaustively, the Council has received four regional Emmys.

Most recently, and most ambitiously, there is the *Encyclopedia of Connecticut History Online*, a collaboration among hundreds of scholars. This project, once

courtesy of the Connecticut Humanities Council



Bruce Fraser, recipient of the Janet Jainschigg Award for Excellence for 2010

live, will be the most important contribution to our understanding of Connecticut in decades. It demonstrates that Bruce can move his history commitment into the modern, technological age seamlessly.

All along, Bruce Fraser has spearheaded the Council's Heritage Development program that supports, with its grants, a wide variety of exhibits and other programs, many with local historical societies. Since its inception, the Council has awarded 1,488 Cultural Heritage Grants, amounting to \$14.6 million dollars of state funds invested in the private sector. Realizing that it's impossible to cultivate the heritage

community without investing in its historic places as well, he forged a partnership with the Connecticut Trust to foster the strong connection and inevitable relationship that the cultural heritage/museum community must have with historic preservation.

The Connecticut Trust's Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant (HPTAG) program was started as a result of this relationship and has been generously funded by the Humanities Council since 2003. From that start, the HPTAG program has become a signature program for the Trust, with grants reaching communities across the state. The re-grant funds from the Humanities Council have resulted in the Trust's gaining its own line item in the state budget to support part of the program, while our partnership continues.

None of this could have happened without Fraser's leadership at the state Capitol, where he is an effective advocate for investment in and appreciation of Connecticut's history. Fraser "educated me about the importance of the Connecticut cultural community writ large," said Rep. Denise Merrill, the House Majority Leader, in presenting the award. "He is an advocate like no other that I have known."

The Jainschigg award commemorates Janet G. Jainschigg, a founder and benefactor of the Connecticut Trust as well as a regional leader in historic preservation. She was a mentor and inspiration who, though a volunteer herself, insisted on the highest standards of professionalism. Bruce Fraser exemplifies the professional excellence that the Janet Jainschigg Award celebrates. 🌸

Marcia Howard, Chair of the Connecticut Humanities Council, accepted the award on Bruce Fraser's behalf from Rep. Denise Merrill, House Majority Leader, and Helen Higgins, the Trust's Executive Director.



G. Farmer

Bring new life to old chimneys



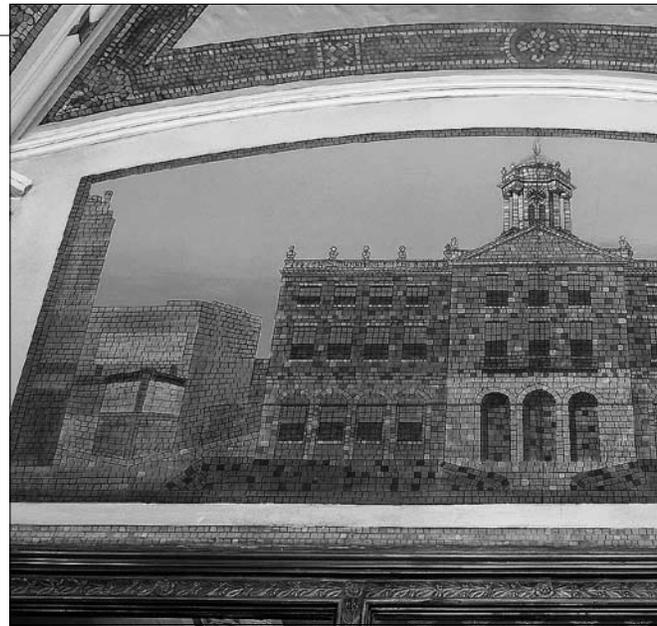
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Hotchkiss Library, Sharon



Betty Ruth and Milton B. Hollander Foundation Center, Hartford

Preservation Awards, cont'd from page 5

Grants from the Trust have helped the Town study its history and physical condition, laying the groundwork for a \$200,000 restoration grant received from the state. **Hotchkiss Library, Sharon.** Instead of considering a new building location on the edge of town with spacious parking

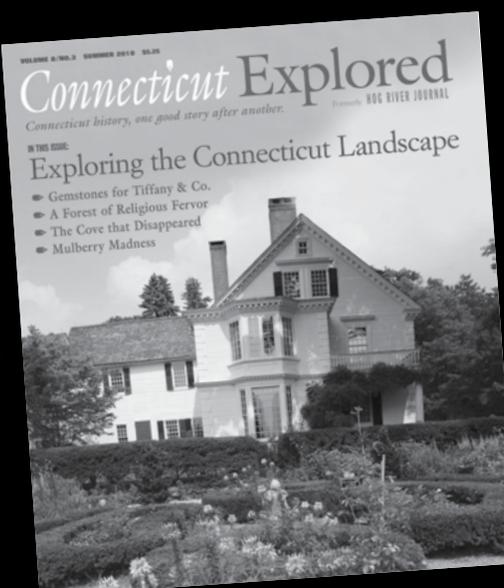
lots, the Hotchkiss Library has looked at ways to enhance and add to its historic building in the town center, built in 1893 to designs by New York architect Bruce Price. Connecticut Trust grants helped the library to study the building's history and architecture in greater detail, to make the

building more attractive and functional, and to consider plans for expansion that will respect and enhance the original architecture.

CONNECTICUT PRESERVATION AWARDS: AWARDS OF MERIT

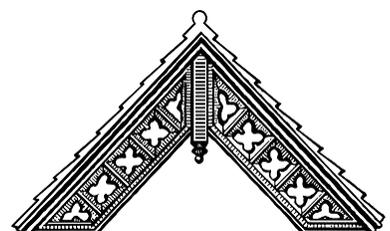
101-103 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport. Located in a National Register district and a local historic district, this Gothic Revival house, built in 1853, had suffered extensive water and fire damage. The city condemned the house, but eventually two nonprofits, Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust and Mutual Housing of Southwestern Connecticut, were able to buy it in a foreclosure sale. They restored the exterior and remodeled the interior, converting the two-family house to four condo units for first-time homebuyers.

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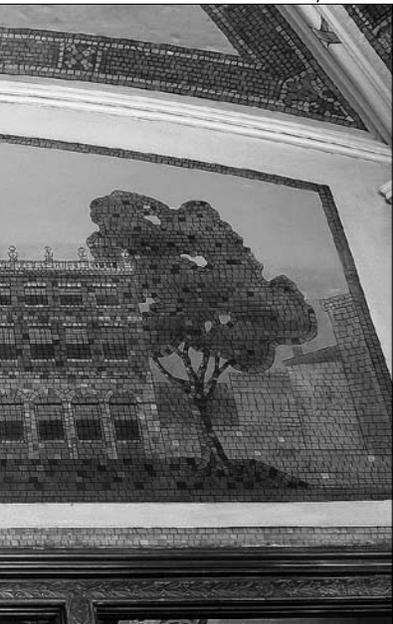
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Orient Lodge, Stamford

Betty Ruth and Milton B. Hollander Foundation Center, Hartford. This historic office building, built in 1926, only escaped demolition by surviving two lawsuits. After that, the building was donated to Common Ground Community, which has converted it to a mix of retail and

offices, plus supportive, affordable, and market-rate housing. Demonstrating that preservation is indeed green building, the Hollander Center is Connecticut's first LEED-certified mixed-use building, its first LEED-certified multifamily residential building, and its first LEED-certified building utilizing historic tax credits.

Orient Lodge, Stamford. This unusual Asian-themed Arts and Crafts bungalow, escaped becoming yet another Fairfield County teardown after Stamford designated it a Public Historic Property. But preventing demolition was only the first step. Working with a treasure trove of original photographs, William Bretschger cleared out choking underbrush and invasive wildlife, replaced the leaky roof, repaired extensive wood rot, replaced mechanicals, and reglazed existing windows, all to bring this amazing house back to prime condition.

101-103 Barnum Avenue, Bridgeport

Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust



Memorial Town Hall, Old Lyme. To update this c.1920 municipal building, located in a National Register district and a local historic district, the Town of Old Lyme, working with Paul B. Bailey Architect, removed vinyl siding, improved code and accessibility provisions, restored significant interior spaces, and added a new meeting room and offices with minimal impact on the original structure.

Elizabeth Park Rose Garden, West Hartford. Elizabeth Park boasts the oldest municipal rose garden in the nation. Since the 1970s, the Friends of

continued on page 6

Memorial Town Hall, Old Lyme

Paul B. Bailey Architect



Preservation Awards, cont'd from page 5

Elizabeth Park have overseen the care of the garden, a job beyond the capacity of city parks department. Most recently, they have seen to the repair or replacement of the wood-and-steel arches that support rambling roses and form a central feature of the garden. Many of Connecticut's most treasured public places depend on this sort of public-private partnership.

David Wilson



Elizabeth Park rose garden, West Hartford



Micheels house documentation

Documentation of the Micheels house, Westport. Designed by the famed Modernist architect Paul Rudolph, the Micheels house fell in 2007, demolished for yet another overblown McMansion. Before demolition, Connecticut Trust staff members were able to photograph and measure the house. Stephen Lasar Architects volunteered the technical expertise to convert those rough field notes into a computer-assisted record done to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey so that future generations will have some record of this lost masterpiece.



Connecticut Explored, "Built It/Razed It III"

Connecticut Explored magazine, "Built It/Razed It III." The third of an ongoing series of thematic issues focusing on historic preservation, "Built It/Razed It III" was a collaboration between the magazine's staff and the Connecticut Commission on

Culture & Tourism. The issue focuses on Connecticut's 20th-century architecture and history, ranging from the Glass House to prefabricated Lustron houses, from



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Reused barns, Wilton



G. Farmer

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal

roadside culture to furniture by Jens Risom, from Connecticut's image in the movies to the modern aspects of the seemingly traditional architecture of Theodate Pope.

CONNECTICUT PRESERVATION AWARDS: COMMENDATIONS

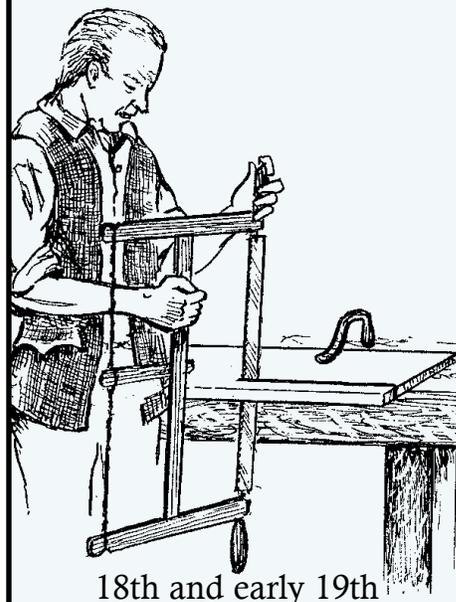
Barn Reuse, Wilton. Carol and Henry Hill, working with Rob Sanders Architects, rescued, moved and adapted two endangered historic barns for the their business in Wilton.

Richard Blumenthal.

As Connecticut's Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal has been diligent in pursuing legal protections for historic places. Under the Connecticut

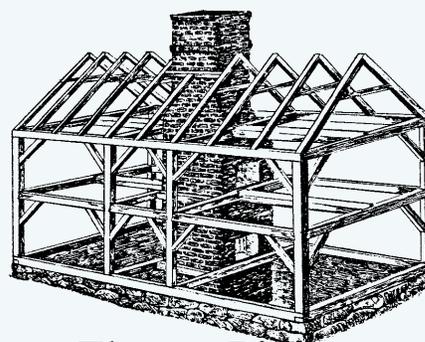
Environmental Protection Act, he has fought to protect historic sites such as 410 Asylum Street, in Hartford; the Grumman-Saint John house, in Norwalk; and, most recently, the American Legion building, in Wallingford. 🌿

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Study Confirms Economic Benefits of Historic Tax Credits

The federal historic rehabilitation tax credit is a powerful creator of jobs and other economic benefits, according to a new report released in March by the Center for Urban Policy Research at Rutgers University and created in cooperation with the National Trust Community Investment Corporation.

The report provides the first thorough analysis of the federal historic rehabilitation investment tax credit. Created in 1981, the program offers a 20 percent credit for certified rehabilitation of income-producing properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (see CPN, November/December 2008).

At a time of threatened government cutbacks, the Rutgers report provides reliable data to help preservationists make the case for retaining historic rehabilitation tax credits:

- \$16.6 billion in federal historic tax credits to date have made possible more than five times that amount in total expenditures: \$85 billion.

- The credits have generated about 1.8 million new jobs.
- The cost per job generated is less than \$10,000, which compares quite favorably to other forms of economic stimulus.
- About three-fourths of these economic effects are retained in the localities and states where the projects are located.
- Historic tax credits have been particularly effective in providing affordable housing and fostering downtown revitalization, thanks in large part to twinning with state and other federal credits.
- Since 2002, about two-thirds of all federal historic tax credit projects have been in low-income areas that most need assistance.

According to the report, in 2008 Connecticut ranked 20th among the 50 states (plus the District of Columbia) in total rehabilitation expenditures on tax credit projects (\$52 million) and 22nd in job creation attributable to tax credits (745). While the higher-ranked states include ones much larger than Connecticut (California and New York, for example), they also include Missouri, which has one of the most extensive state rehabilitation tax credits in the nation.

The report also recommends ways of improving the federal tax credit program, including making it easier to use the

First Annual Report on the Economic Impact of the Federal Historic Tax Credit

THE HISTORIC TAX CREDIT COALITION

MARCH 2010



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credits for smaller projects, additional credits for energy efficient rehabilitation, and the ability to twin the rehabilitation tax credit with renewable energy credits. 🌿

The Rutgers report can be found at <http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/community-revitalization/jobs/Rutgers-Report.pdf>.



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*For the Purist
Center Chimney House Plans*

New Rules Govern Lead in Older Buildings

As of April 22, new federal regulations for lead safety apply to all houses built before 1978. The regulations are intended to improve safety and public health, but they present challenges to preservation.

Historically used in paint as a binding agent and color adherent, lead was recognized in the 20th century to be hazardous, particularly to young children, whose brains and nervous systems could be permanently damaged by lead poisoning. Beginning in the 1940s manufacturers gradually reduced the amount of lead in house paints, and it was banned in 1978.

Lead paint presents no hazard as long as it is in good condition. However, where paint is peeling, where painted surfaces rub together to produce dust (such as windows), or where architectural elements project from the wall (known as “accessible surfaces”), or where lead dust has accumulated in the soil, children can ingest or inhale the lead, and suffer poisoning.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has been tightening rules on lead paint for some time. Since 2008 contractors working in pre-1978 housing where children under six or pregnant women reside have been required to employ lead-safe methods, obtain certification in lead removal, and provide training to their employees.

As of April 22, the 2008 regulations apply to all pre-1978 housing, whether or not young children live in it. Simply put, contractors now must follow strict rules to contain the work area, minimize dust; and clean up thoroughly. These procedures apply to any other work that disturbs painted surfaces, including window replacement or general remodeling, and they must be followed by all paid renovators working in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities, including renovation contractors, maintenance workers, and painters. Contractors must comply with the rules or face fines.

The new rules do not apply to do-it-yourselfers or to very small projects—less than six square feet

indoors or twenty square feet outdoors. Furthermore, abatement procedures can be skipped if testing determines that no lead paint is present.

Lead-paint management and removal is important to preservationists because older buildings cannot be preserved and fully utilized unless they provide a safe environment. Unfortunately, some of the most aggressive deleading methods also remove evidence of a building’s original and accumulated decorative treatments. Painted decoration such as graining, marbleizing, stenciling, and murals contribute to architectural appeal and historic importance, and even the layering of single colors can tell us about changes in taste and structural alterations. Even existing lead-paint regulations sometimes led contractors to remove historic fabric wholesale rather than attempt to de-lead it—robbing buildings of priceless historic character.

The new regulations have raised fears

that the increased complexity and cost of renovation (by as much as 10 to 30 percent, according to some estimates) will put historic buildings at a distinct disadvantage and will encourage new construction or insensitive remodeling instead. Widespread neglect of older buildings could, in the long run, create other hazards as serious as those presented by lead exposure.

Since dust control is never completely effective, and some property owners may try to sue the contractor if they find any dust left behind (regardless of whether it results from the contractor’s work), insurance costs are likely to increase sharply, and could drive qualified restorers out of business.

The large amounts of polyethylene sheeting required to screen work areas and contain debris will also have adverse environmental effects. The polyethylene, a petroleum-based product, can only be used for one day or one project and then must be rolled, taped and sent to a landfill, where it will sit for 5,000 years without degrading.

While lead paint is indeed a serious hazard, preservationists fear that the new regulations will cause as many problems as they solve. As CPN goes to press, the National Trust for Historic Preservation is working with the EPA to develop interpretations of the new regulations that will help encourage safety without needlessly abandoning our heritage. 🌿

For more information—

EPA lead safety regulations:
<http://www.epa.gov/lead>

National Trust for Historic Preservation:
www.preservationnation.org

Preservation Brief, 37, “Appropriate Methods for Reducing Lead-Paint Hazards in Historic Housing”:
<http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief37.htm>



This painter, working in New London, is wearing a face mask for protection from lead-bearing paint dust. New regulations that took effect in April will require him to take additional precautions and obtain certification in lead removal.

Norwich.

Police have recovered all the pieces of the statue stolen in February from the grave of Sarah Osgood, in the Yantic Cemetery (see CPN, March/April 2010). The head was turned in by a citizen who found it sitting atop a stone wall at a vacant property in Willimantic. The remainder of the statue, cut into several pieces, was recovered from a Willimantic scrapyards, which had paid \$200 for it.

Police have charged two men, Sean P. McNee, of Willimantic, and Richard Chamberlain, of Lebanon, in connection with the crime.

Under state law, grave monuments belong to the heirs of those buried under them. According to The Day of New London, the Osgood descendants hope to restore the statue, but are nervous about putting it back in the unprotected cemetery. For the present, however, the statue remains in police custody as evidence.

In the meantime, Norwich City Historian Dale Plummer, former mayor (and former Connecticut Trust Trustee) Arthur Lathrop, and David Oat, a member of the Norwich Historical Society, have begun efforts to protect the cemetery. In consultation with the Connecticut Circuit Rider, they are exploring such ideas as nominating the cemetery to the National Register and organizing a Friends group to lock the gates at night and patrol the cemetery. 🌿

Bridgeport.

Water began flowing again in the Wheeler Fountain on April 8, signaling the near completion of a \$199,000 restoration.

The fountain, erected in 1912 as a monument to Bridgeport industrialist Nathaniel Wheeler, was the work of sculptor Gutzon Borglum. Standing in the confluence of John Street and Fairfield and Park avenues, it is a playful creation, with mermaids, seahorses, and leaping fish that provide a spot of delight in the middle of the busy intersection. The fountain is individually listed on the National Register.

The fountain had long been neglected, leading the Connecticut Trust to include it in the 2004 list of The Most Important Threatened Places in Connecticut. In February, 2008, a car crashed into the fountain, smashing one of the three bowls that stand around the main fountain.



Wheeler Fountain, Bridgeport

Now, the central figure, a bronze mermaid holding an electric torch aloft with one hand, while the other clutches a child to her breast, has been cleaned. The light has been re-wired, and the piping repaired, the granite stonework cleaned and, where necessary, repaired. Twelve bronze bollards, many of which had been stolen, have been reproduced in less expensive metal, and additional granite bollards are being added to protect the fountain from traffic. 🌿



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Salem School, Natugatuck

National Register of Historic Places



Naugatuck.

Salem Elementary School will remain open, at least for the moment, after the town's Board of Education reversed an earlier decision to close it.

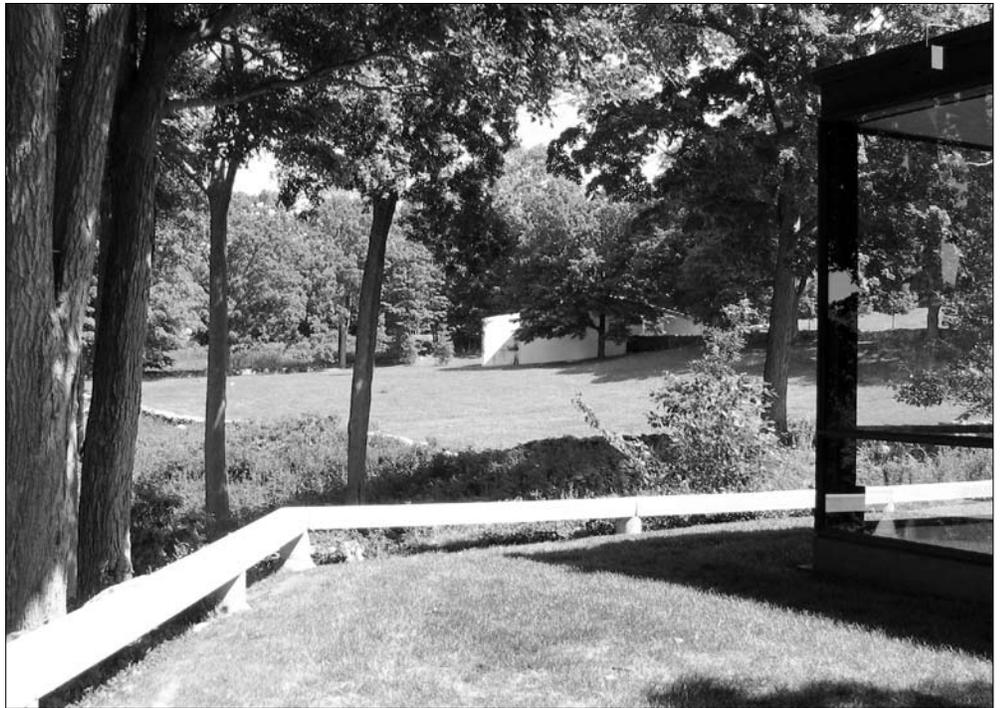
The school, built in 1893, is part of a significant cluster of buildings in downtown Naugatuck designed by the renowned firm of McKim, Mead and White under the patronage of local industrialist John Howard Whittemore (see CPN, January/February 2010).

Naugatuck is only one of numerous towns to face budget shortfalls in the current recession. Facility closures and deferred maintenance are sure to follow in many cases. When the Board of Education voted in March to close the school, they estimated that doing so would save approximately \$400,000 of a projected \$1 million budget deficit. Officials said they could move several town departments into the building, to ease crowding at Town Hall.

Townspete petitioned to keep the school open. Because of its place in the town's history, Salem is highly valued by residents. Parents also hoped to keep it open as a neighborhood school. And, there were concerns about the provisions of the 1875 deed for the land, given to the town by philanthropist George A. Lewis specifically for educational purposes.

On April 19 the Board voted 4-3 to keep the school open after all. However, the budget deficit still must be eliminated, and the matter may come up yet again. 🌿

M. Antonelli

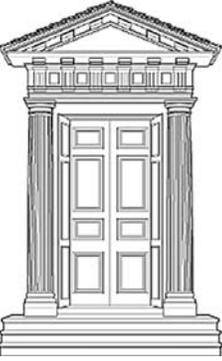


Protected views from the Glass House

New Canaan.

The Philip Johnson Glass House is defined by its views. To preserve those views, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has acquired land adjacent to the Glass House, planted screening, implemented preservation easements to limit additional development, and resold property to private owners. Over the past three years, these efforts have not only eliminated the threat of four new houses overlooking the National Historic Landmark but have also increased the site's conserved land from 47 acres to more than 200 acres which will be free and clear of future development.

continued on page 14



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New Trustees

The Connecticut Trust welcomes two new trustees. They were elected at the annual meeting in April and officially began their terms on May 1.

Garry Leonard, of Madison, is a Senior Design Associate with Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo Associates Architects. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Architecture from the University of Illinois and his work includes master planning, building design, interior design, programming, space planning and furnishings for numerous projects at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York; for Lucent Technologies, at several locations; the Knights of Columbus Headquarters and museum, in New Haven; and the Union Carbide headquarters, in Danbury.

In Madison, Garry has served on Chair of the Board of Selectman's Committee to review the Scranton Library Expansion Project; the Historic District Commission; the Planning and Zoning Commission (two years as chairman); the Committee to develop the 2000 Comprehensive Plan; the Town Advisory Committee on Community Appearance, and building committees for the First Congregational Church of Madison and the Madison Beach Club. He is also a former member South Central Regional Planning Commission.

Jeffrey Morgan, of South Kent, is an architectural restorer who specializes in pre-Revolutionary American architecture and design. Jeff has faithfully restored a small cape built in 1743 for a local iron business. He and his partner, architect and decora-

G. Farmer



Garry Leonard

G. Farmer



Jeffrey Morgan

tor Robert Couturier, opened it and their lakeside home to the Trust for a fundraiser last year. Jeff is an alternate on the Kent Historic District Commission and a Trustee of the Kent Historical Society where he is deeply involved in the ongoing restoration of Seven Hearths, an 18th-century house that later became the home of the artist George Laurence Nelson. The society received a HPTAG grant for an historic structures report on the house.

At the annual meeting, the Board also elected new officers, who took office on May 1. Edmund Schmidt, of Darien, will be Chairman; William Crosskey, of Bolton, Vice-Chairman; and Jeffry Muthersbaugh, of Bethel, Secretary.

Edward Munster and Walter Fiederowicz will continue as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. 🌿

The following names were inadvertently omitted from the list of the Connecticut Trust's Preservation Circle members which appeared in the March/April issue of CPN.

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David Poirier Retires as Staff Archaeologist

David Poirier, Staff Archaeologist with the former Connecticut Historical Commission and the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, retired late last fall after 33 years with the state. He was the first person to serve in the position of Staff Archaeologist with Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), one of the three disciplines the National Park Service requires of state historic preservation offices.

One of David's principal responsibilities was to review and comment on federal projects that may affect a property listed on or eligible for the National Register, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. He also reviewed state projects under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. Until the late 1980s, when two other staff members joined him, David was the only person working in this program. It is estimated that during his tenure David and his colleagues reviewed more than 50,000 projects.

David also advocated for the survey of archaeological sites from Native American burials to the rich but often forgotten engineering and industrial sites across the state. He worked tirelessly to see that sites like the Farmington Canal and the Portland Brownstone Quarries were listed on the National Register or designated as a National Historic Landmark. David's work with a Governor's Task Force on Native American Cultures resulted in

legislation in 1989 to protect archaeological sites and artifacts as well as providing for the designation of state archaeological preserves. In addition, he co-authored Connecticut's 1990 State Historic Preservation Plan and oversaw publication of two archaeological planning guides.

In the late 1980s David collaborated with Nicholas Bellantoni, the State Archaeologist, to educate the public about Connecticut's archaeological heritage. Dr. Bellantoni said that David "really created the historic preservation mechanism

for archaeology in Connecticut, as well as the system for protecting archaeological resources. He was responsible for initiating Connecticut Archaeology Week and authored the basic primer which guides the archaeology community in evaluating the significance of potential archaeological sites. He was also the leader in broadening the view of archaeology in Connecticut and the need to identify and protect underwater archaeological sites in our state." ❖

—by John W. Shannahan,
former State Historic Preservation Officer

Daniel Forrest, New Staff Archaeologist

Daniel Forrest has been hired as the Staff Archaeologist at the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism's Historic Preservation and Museum Division, effective last December. Taking over from David Poirier, he oversees the Commission's State Archaeological Preserve Program and reviews federal and state projects in Connecticut.

Forrest completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Connecticut and worked as a professional consulting archaeologist between 1992 and 2009, eventually serving as Senior Archaeologist at the non-profit Public Archaeology Survey Team (PAST) in Storrs and its sister company, Archaeological & Historical Services, Inc.

Forrest has worked on large-scale investigations of both historic period and

prehistoric period sites, including multi-year investigations of the former Norwich State Hospital property in Preston and Norwich; the Route 11 corridor in Salem, Montville, and East Lyme; the Adriaen's Landing redevelopment site in Hartford; and the Sandy Hill Site at Mashantucket, a vibrant and complex community from some 10,000 years ago.

"We at the Commission represent the interests of Connecticut's citizens in historic preservation, and our efforts toward conserving archaeological resources focus on that public interest," says Forrest.

"What we now call Connecticut has been a profoundly human landscape for millennia; one that has changed and evolved in ways we barely understand. Archaeology is not about boxes of dusty artifacts on a shelf. It's about the hundreds of generations of people who lived and died here. We are the custodians of their stories, and every time we lose sight of that responsibility, something of humanity is lost forever." ❖

Upcoming Meetings of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

June 2, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

July 7, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

State Historic Preservation Board

June 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

All meetings take place at the Commission on Culture and Tourism Main Conference Room
1 Constitution Plaza

For more information call (860) 256-2800



David Poirier former Staff Archaeologist for the Commission on Culture & Tourism



Daniel Forrest, new Staff Archaeologist for the Commission on Culture & Tourism

Pro-bono legal assistance from the Stamford office of Robinson & Cole made the effort possible. Charles Janson (also a Connecticut Trust trustee) represented the National Trust in the real estate transactions and drew up the preservation and conservation easement documents.

Christy MacLear, director of the Glass House, says, "Raising money to support the elimination of a threat that is imminent but not visibly evident can be challenging, but viewshed protection is essential to the long-term preservation of many great national assets." ❁



41 South Main Street, Wallingford (at left)

Wallingford.

The seven-year-old lawsuit over the proposed demolition of a house in the Wallingford Center National Register district finally went to trial in March.

The house, located at 41 South Main Street, is a Queen Anne style structure built about 1890 for Roger Austin. It most recently was used as American Legion post. The town bought the house, which sits next to town hall, 1995 to use the land for parking. In 2002 the town announced it would raze the house, claiming that there was no feasible or prudent use for the structure.

The Connecticut Historical Commission (predecessor to the Commission Culture & Tourism) opposed demolition. The house is part of an important line of buildings facing the Parade, a widened stretch of Main Street that functions as a town green. Razing it would interrupt the lineup of buildings that frame the Parade. The Commission asked the Attorney General to sue the town under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act, to prevent the unreasonable destruc-

tion of the historic resource. The case has wound on since then.

In the meantime, the town has considered selling the house and has received three bona fide offers to buy it, but each time the council, led by Mayor William Dickinson, Jr., has voted against selling.

At the trial, Helen Higgins, the Connecticut Trust's Executive Director, testified as an expert witness about other cases where towns have successfully rehabilitated historic buildings, many in worse condition than the Austin house. ❁

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Huntington Church, cont'd from page 16

The church's scale is big, but its classical design ennobles rather than squashes its occupants, an effect that seems appropriate to the Universalists' liberal doctrine. But in fact this architectural mode was accepted across theological lines; the Baptists apparently adopted the building without a qualm and they have proudly maintained it ever since. 🌿

Hunting Street Baptist Church is located at 29 Huntington Street, New London. Its website is <http://pages.cthome.net/newlondon4jesus/>. The church is individually listed on the National Register.

Deep moldings and leafy ornament enrich the interior of the Huntington Street Baptist Church.

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Huntington Street Baptist Church New London

This serene and dignified building was one salvo in a ferocious religious struggle that began in 1835 when a group of New London Baptists left their church and founded the First Universalist Society. Abandoning Baptist teachings about salvation and damnation, the Universalists proclaimed the ultimate salvation of all humankind. Their departure set off a bitterly contentious series of sermons and counter-sermons.

To overshadow their rivals, both symbolically and literally, the Universalists constructed a magnificent church in 1843, setting it on a hilltop overlooking downtown New London (originally the church had the highest steeple in the city, making it even more prominent than it is today). But they overreached; socially ostracized and unable to pay for their lavish building, the embattled Universalists had to sell it just six years later—to the triumphant Baptists.

The church represents one of the purest expressions of the temple form, which Greek Revival builders employed for every kind of structure from houses to schools to barns to factories. Rich but restrained, the lush Corinthian capitals of the portico are set off by the smooth, blank wall behind, while deep moldings and leafy ornament enrich the interior. As with other buildings attributed to New London builder John Bishop, the details appear to have been copied from *Beauties of Modern Architecture* (1835), by Minard Lafever, whose lush Grecian ornament differs from plainer interpretations of the style more commonly employed by Connecticut builders.

continued on page 15

CONNECTICUT Snapshots

C. Hitchcock

