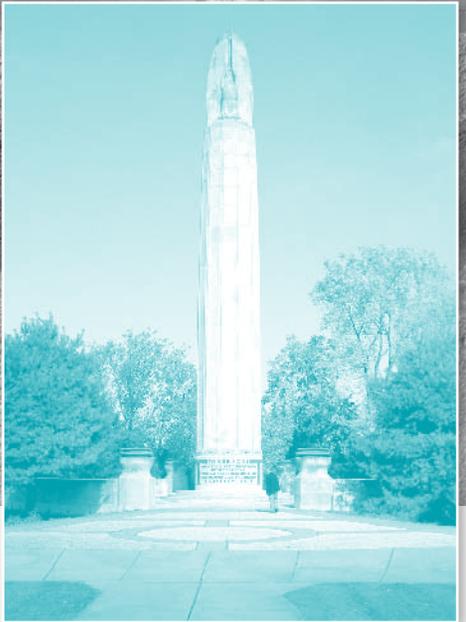


Metal Thefts on the Rise



C. Wigren, both photos.



Thieves stole bronze plaques and knobs from New Britain's World War I monument, in Walnut Hill Park.

The nationwide epidemic of metal thefts hit New Britain in October, when vandals stole bronze fittings from the World War I memorial in Walnut Hill Park. The memorial, built in 1927, is the most prominent element in the park, crowning its highest hill. The soaring limestone shaft is visible from all over the city and notable for its Art Moderne detailing. Even more unusual is the series of 123 bronze plaques mounted on semicircular stone walls flanking the shaft, one for each New Britain man who died in the war. A bronze knob beneath each plaque provides a convenient way to display flowers, attesting to the careful thought that architect H. Van Buren Magonigle put into the design. The monument, along with the rest of the park, is listed on the National Register.

The thieves stole the knobs, plus four of the plaques. City officials estimate that it would cost \$20,000 to reproduce the missing pieces, and even more to install them—but the historic value of the original metal pieces would be lost forever.

The New Britain theft was only the latest in a rash of metals thefts across Connecticut and beyond. Other historic sites include:

- The Burr Mansion, in Fairfield, where copper gutters and downspouts were stolen in August, 2011. Downspouts also were taken from the post office and Calvin United Church nearby.
- Riverside Cemetery, in Waterbury, where two 400-pound bronze statues were stolen in December, 2011, one from an

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From the Executive Director

As we've all heard, preservation is about real estate. The Connecticut Trust improved its expertise in that area in late September, when three staff members participated in a weeklong Historic Real Estate Finance Training Program. With the support of the 1772 Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Development Council teamed up to provide a training opportunity for preservation professionals that offered a step-by-step look at the real estate development process. Sessions focused on the numbers behind real estate projects, including underwriting, appraisals, cash flow, depreciation, passive income/loss, syndication, tax credits, and more. Circuit Riders Gregory Farmer and Brad Schide were joined by Preservation Services Officer Jane Montanaro for the week of rigorous number crunching. All three have been active in helping to develop a business plan for the Trust's soon-to-be-launched Revolving Fund. This training will equip them with needed expertise to address the many historic real estate projects available around Connecticut.

Currently, the Trust's most important real estate project involves the early-19th century Olney house in Southington. After securing an injunction to prevent its demolition in August, the Trust is now actively

continued on page 3

Upcoming Meetings of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

December 5, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.
January 2, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

Connecticut Historic Preservation Board

January 10, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.

All meetings take place at the State Historic Preservation Office Department of Economic and Community Development Main Conference Room

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Connecticut
still revolutionary

looking for developers who will invest in the rehab of the house and either sell it or lease it to a commercial tenant. The house is owned by the YMCA of Southington-Cheshire. All negotiations for purchase (or lease) will go through them, but if you're interested in the property, or know someone who might be, please let us know.

As members and friends of the Trust know, raising money for our operations is an on-going struggle. We had fun recently by participating in the Great Give of 2012, sponsored by the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. For a 36-hour window, donors to the Trust could help us win prizes for such things as the most donations, the most donations over \$5,000, and the most donations during a two-hour stretch. We were very gratified with the number of Trust members and new friends who participated in the program. It was a spirited contest that rallied the efforts of many—trustees, members, and staff alike. The Connecticut Trust placed high among the participants receiving \$9,595 in gifts from 59 friends (representing 30 towns) and \$4,140 from the foundation.

Researchers for the Historic Barns of Connecticut project have now written one hundred State Register of Historic Places nominations and aim to complete up to 200 by June 30, 2013. In the meantime, we are actively planning for a big celebration of barns on June 7 and June 8. Mark your calendars now!

—Helen Higgins

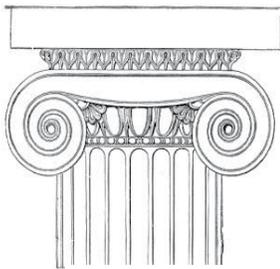
courtesy of Jason Wright



Do you know this house?

Jason Wright is a photographic historian and collector who is researching the very earliest photographic images, those taken shortly after the invention of the daguerreotype in 1839. Images from such an early date are particularly rare in the United States, and this could be one of the oldest ever taken in New England (or the country as a whole, for that matter). The unusual pediment window seems to suggest two areas—Springfield, Massachusetts, or Norwich, Connecticut. Any help in pinning down the location or even identifying the house could be historically significant, as identifying the location will in all likelihood enable the photographer to be identified, shedding further light into the development of photography in the United States.

If you have any information to share, please write to
jasonwright256@msn.com.



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Metal thefts, cont'd from page 1

individual memorial and one from a sculpture at the entrance. Both were recovered, but one had been damaged beyond repair.

- 91 Church Street, New Haven, where a 1932 plaque commemorating a visit by George Washington was stolen in December, 2011. It was recovered after a local businessman began emailing area scrap metal dealers.
- War memorials in Ansonia, Derby, New Britain, and Shelton.

Earlier thefts reported in CPN include copper water pipes taken from the Connecticut Trust's headquarters, the Eli Whitney boarding house, and a 19th-century bronze statue from the Yantic Cemetery, in Norwich, both in 2010 (see CPN, May/June 2010). The Norwich statue was recovered, but only after it had been sawn into pieces.

What's driving the thefts is the steep rise in metals prices in recent years. Copper in particular soared from 65 cents per pound to a high of more than \$4.50 before dropping off somewhat. Prolonged high unemployment rates further feed the



The statue of Death (on the left), from Waterbury's Riverside Cemetery, is back in place after being stolen last year.

problem, making more people desperate for the money they can get by selling the metal for scrap. The thefts can result in significant losses to historic sites. Without gutters and downspouts, water can run into buildings, causing flooding and other damage. Sculptures and plaques can be significant works of art and they serve as reminders of our past history, calling to mind historic events and people.

"I just loved the fact the George Washington came to New Haven. I walk past that plaque walking to get my coffee every morning," Robert Greenberg, the owner of Acme Office Furniture, told *The New Haven Register* after the Washington plaque was stolen. "What's happening is an eradication of American history."

Compounding the loss, some building owners are removing plaques before they are stolen. In New Haven, AT&T took down four plaques from one of its buildings after a rash of thefts in 2008. Sometimes, these plaques are remounted indoors, where they are safer, but sometimes they simply are stored away. In either case, their public presence is reduced or lost.

Sometimes the stolen goods can be recovered. The George Washington plaque and the Norwich and Waterbury statues were all recovered, although the Norwich figure and one of the Waterbury ones had been cut up by the thieves.

What can be done to prevent thefts? The first step is surveillance. Metal objects

that are in public view are less easy to steal. But it can be difficult to keep an eye on isolated buildings, and even more difficult to watch parks and cemeteries which are less frequented. After the Osgood monument was stolen from Yantic Cemetery, neighbors and friends asked the city to lock



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Thieves damaged the Smith statue, below, also from Riverside Cemetery, beyond repair.

the cemetery gates at night and have set up an informal roster of people who walk through the cemetery regularly to monitor it for thefts and vandalism, as well as other maintenance issues.

Another approach is improved enforcement and strengthening of laws, in hopes that doing so will discourage stealing. In the wake of thefts from veterans' memorials in the Valley, U.S. Rep. Chris Murphy announced that he would introduce legislation to protect memorials. Murphy's bill, the "Protect Veterans' Memorials Act," would toughen existing federal laws against transporting stolen goods across state lines by removing the minimum value threshold for veterans' memorials. This could mean up to ten years in prison or fines of up to \$250,000 for offenders.

Unfortunately, Murphy's bill only addresses a small segment of the problem. The number of stolen plaques that get carried across state lines is presumably small. Furthermore, the bill applies only to plaques memorializing veterans, only a small portion of the vulnerable objects. Cemetery monuments, sculptures, and other memorial or commemorative plaques are not covered.

More secure mountings can sometimes provide protection, particularly for plaques. Instead of screws, adhesives can make it harder to pry them from their backing.

The best protection is if thieves know that they won't be able to sell metal for scrap. Connecticut law requires scrap deal-

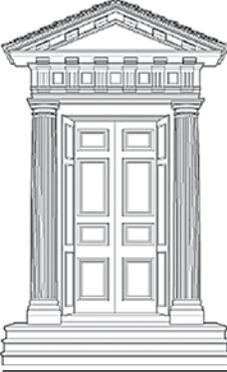
ers to keep records of metal received, including identification of the person who deliver it and license plate number of delivery vehicle. It was suspicious scrap dealers who returned the stolen Waterbury and Norwich figures and led police to the vandals.

One central clearinghouse is the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, which uses its website to post notices of stolen materials. When items are posted, the system sends an alert to Institute

members within a 100-mile radius. A recent visit to the site, www.ScrapTheftAlert.com, found only one entry for Connecticut, for an aluminum playground toy—nothing historic.

Local efforts have been most successful at retrieving stolen objects. After the Washington plaque disappeared from New Haven, Robert Greenburg posted an alert on SeeClickFix (seeclickfix.com), a site where citizens post notices about community con-

continued on page 14



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Bristol: The Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce have submitted a proposal to the city to reuse the Memorial Boulevard School (1921) as an arts center and incubator space for business startups. Municipal or other government uses are also being considered for the historic building, which faces Memorial Boulevard and closed as a school in June.

Colebrook: Opponents of a planned wind farm lost their appeal in state Superior Court, prompting columnist Dan Haar to write in the Hartford Courant that "...Connecticut's system for approving wind projects is deeply flawed. Even if the public's need for these things outweighs the harm to the small handful of people who live nearby—which could well be

true—there's no way to compensate those neighbors for noise, or in the case of one Colebrook couple, loss of business at a historic bed and breakfast just a few hundred yards from a turbine." The Connecticut Siting Council, which approves applications for energy installations, is still working on regulations for wind turbines (see CPN, September/October 2012).

C. Wigren



• Colebrook

• Torrington

National Register of Historic Places, David Ransom



• Bristol

• Meridan

• Southbury

• New Haven

Mimi Findlay



• New Canaan

• Milford

Southbury Land Trust





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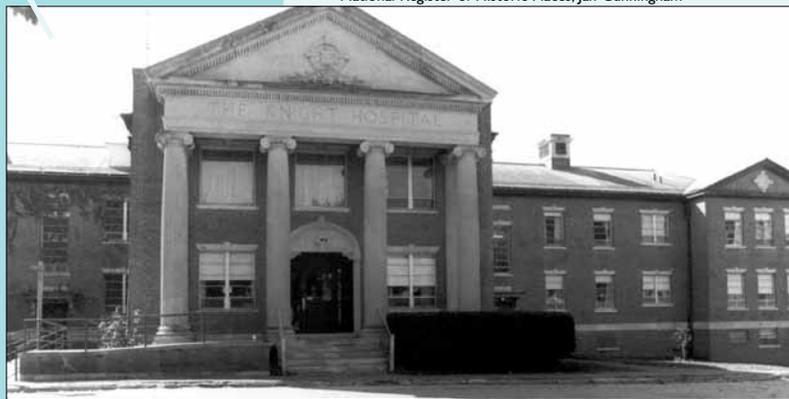


courtesy of Christ Church

Mansfield

Glastonbury

Montville



National Register of Historic Places, Jan Cunningham

Glastonbury: Town crews are repairing the Naubuc Avenue bridge, a brownstone arch structure built in 1871. The work includes shoring up one corner of the bridge, rebuilding the parapets—retaining the brownstone facing—and adding metal guide wires. “We want to make sure the bridge retains its historical significance,” said town engineer and director of physical services Daniel Pennington.

Mansfield: In two articles that appeared in *The Hartford Courant* over the summer, *Courant* columnist Tom Condon and Margaret Miner, executive director of the Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, called attention to the crumbling buildings of the former Mansfield Training School (1909ff., NR). Not only are we facing the loss of yet another historic state institutional complex—but the buildings are also releasing contaminants into nearby streams. Both writers call for a state agency to truly protect its underused historic and natural assets, perhaps modeled on New York’s Empire State Development Corp.

Meriden: Volunteers from the Sons of the American Legion recently repainted the Andrews homestead (c.1760, NR). The house is owned by the city and leased to the Meriden Historical Society for a museum. Sean Hard, a member of the SAL and owner of a painting company, noticed that it was looking shabby and he organized the effort. The City supplied the paint.

Milford: The Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont synagogue (1926, NR) was heavily damaged in a fire in October. Built to serve a Jewish summer colony, the small Colonial Revival building had come to house a year-round congregation. The fire appears to have been caused by an electrical fault; the congregation is assessing whether repairs will be feasible.

continued on page 14



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Charles Ives' House is Sold

Redding. The summer home of the famed American modernist composer Charles Ives has been sold to a private owner despite efforts to acquire it as a retreat for musicians.

Ives, a native of Danbury, is known for his groundbreaking compositions, in which he wove traditional tunes and themes into radical new works that anticipated European modernism while they expressed American character.

Ives and his wife bought the property in West Redding in 1912 and he designed the unpretentious shingled house himself. Although he worked in an insurance agency in New York, Ives spent weekends and summers in Redding, where he composed some of his best-known works, including *Concord Sonata* and *Symphony No. 4*. Nature and the New England landscape are often cited as inspirations for his work; Redding specifically appears in *Putman's Camp, Redding, Connecticut, part of Orchestral Set No. 1: Three Places in New England*.

In an essay in *Slate* magazine, Ives' biographer Jan Swofford wrote that the house expresses Ives' character: "As for the Ives house, it's not only historic but a true creation of the artist who designed and built it. The house is completely Ivesian: quietly attractive but unpretentious, with no façade but rather every side an entrance, the doorless first floor flowing from room to room....In the living room a picture window looks out over the hills, a perfect place for sitting at sunset and reading aloud, as Charlie and his wife used to do."

After Ives died in 1954, the house remained in the family, nearly unchanged, until his grandson, Charles Ives Tyler, put

it up for sale last year, asking \$1.5 million for the 18-acre property. Musicians and preservationists feared that the modest house would be replaced with one of the McMansions that are rapidly filling the Redding landscape.

To preserve the site, the Charles Ives Society, along with the town of Redding and the Redding Land Trust, made an offer to buy the property and preserve it as a retreat for musicians. Tyler seemed open to the proposal until mid-September, when he abruptly announced that he had accepted a cash offer from a private party. The buyer, he said, intended to preserve the house. However, there is no assurance that subsequent owners will also do so.

Tyler has reportedly promised the contents of Ives' studio to the American Academy of Arts and Letters, which plans to reconstruct the studio in Manhattan. While historians and musicians are glad that these materials will be preserved, they will lose much when separated from their historic setting.

Preservation efforts will continue. "Certainly the town is interested in the preservation of both the land and the house," said First Selectman Natalie Ketcham. "If the property ultimately closes with a new owner, we'll look to have a discussion with its owners about easements to preserve the land from being subdivided or the house to be structurally altered." Redding has its own preservation easement program (see CPN, March/April 2007).

In the meantime, Ives' birthplace, part of the Danbury Museum, is closed until it receives significant maintenance, including a new roof. Mayor Mark Boughton is proposing to replace the roof and is seeking funds for other repairs. He also wants increase visitor-

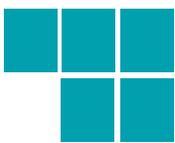
Stuart Reeve



The Charles Ives house, Redding.

ship, possibly by moving the structure (it's already been moved three times). 🌿

For more information, see the Charles Ives Society website, <http://www.charlesives.org/>. Ives in Redding: <http://www.historyoffred-ding.com/HRives.htm>



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East Lyme to Buy Samuel Smith House

Town residents voted on October 3 to buy the Samuel Smith house and 17 acres of land. The purchase combines open space conservation and historic preservation to protect a site that is rich in historical significance, archaeological potential, and natural resources.

Probably begun in the late 17th century, the house eventually grew from a one-room structure to a full center-chimney plan with a rear leanto and a gambrel roof. The interior still boasts early featheredge sheathing and mantels from a Federal-era update. It was listed on the National Register in 1979.

Because of its early date and long history, the site also possesses considerable archaeological potential. Nicholas Bellantoni, the State Archaeologist, wrote in support of the purchase, "It is a rare opportunity to see a late 1600's house that has maintained such wonderful historic characteristics and adjoining property

that has great integrity for archaeological resources. The property is a gem for both its natural and cultural resources and to preserve it for the community is a positive step to the future quality of life in your town."

The site contains woodland and fields with stone walls associated with former agricultural use. It is located on Bride Brook, which supplies part of East Lyme's water system and could be threatened by development.

There currently are two historic house museums in East Lyme, the Thomas Lee house (c.1660 and later) and the Smith-Harris house (c.1845). Officials hope that adding the Samuel Smith house to the list will attract more visitors to the town and strengthen its economy. Local volunteers are organizing a separate nonprofit, the Friends of Samuel Smith, to manage the property; they hope to use it for meetings and programs for schoolchildren. Other

possibilities include community gardens and walking trails. But their first task will be some repairs.

The purchase came about because the town of East Lyme had already identified a list of properties for potential open space acquisition, and asked the owners to let the town know if they ever wanted to sell. The Smith house was on the list, so the case for buying it had already been made, speeding the process.

The town is applying to the state for grants to cover much of the \$425,000 purchase price. In addition, the Niantic Sportsmen's Club, which is seeking a buffer for its nearby shooting range, has offered to buy nine acres of the land and lease it back to the Friends for a token amount. The closing date is tentatively set for March or April, 2013. 🌿

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The Samuel Smith house, East Lyme

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Farmhouse Becomes Affordable Housing

Courtesy of Kent Affordable Housing

Kent. Kent Affordable Housing, Inc., a nonprofit developer, has converted an historic farmhouse to five affordable one- and two-bedroom rental units. The house, built in 1828 and was once part of a 200-acre farm going back to the 18th century. It is located just a quarter-mile from the town center.

According to Virginia Bush Suttman, the president of KAH, the house had been neglected for forty years. It had lead paint and asbestos, and had been damaged by leaks. "There was hardly a scrap of wood that wasn't rotten or defaced," she said. As a result, the house was stripped to its frame and the rear ell had to be demolished and rebuilt. She credited Stephen Lasar Architects of New Milford and Haynes Construction of Seymour with maintaining as much as possible of the building's historic appearance.

As the organization's website observes, Stuart Farm Apartments is unusual among affordable housing developments. Thanks to its small size, architectural character, and rural setting—complete with mature trees and stone walls—it will be more like a family compound than an apartment complex.

The all-volunteer nonprofit organization started construction in April, after three years of planning and fundraising. When completed, the house will contain one fully handicapped-accessible apartment, two single-level apartments, and two townhouse units. Rents will be between approximately \$700 to \$850 for low-to-moderate income households.



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Funding for the project came from Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, Union Savings Bank, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, and private donations. Residents were chosen by lottery in September and were expected to move in during October. 🌿

For more information, visit www.kentaffordablehousing.org.

DOT to Repair Historic Stone Bridge

East Haven. Urged by the town's mayor, the historical society, other concerned citizens, and a class of fifth-graders, the Connecticut Department of Transportation revisited plans to demolish an historic stone-arch bridge and now plans to repair the structure instead.

The bridge, built in 1876, carries Main Street (State Route 100) over the Farm River near its intersection with Route 1. There has been a bridge at this site since 1644. In the 20th century the bridge was widened with a newer concrete span alongside the stone one.

The busy intersection sees many accidents, and DOT designers decided that reconfiguring the intersection would make it safer. But their design called for raising the level of the roadway, so the bridge would have to be replaced. Contributing to the decision were large cracks in the bridge's stonework, although it is structurally sound in general. In addition, the department says that the river backs up behind the narrow archway during heavy rains, causing flooding.

When DOT announced the design, in April, members of the East Haven Historical Society objected. They asked the department to reconsider. The mayor, Joseph Maturo, Jr., also wrote a letter to the department. At a public hearing in April, residents expressed concerns with various aspects of the project—including the demolition of the historic bridge, future maintenance, and road closures during construction. After the meeting, DOT engineers said they would

look again to see if there was a way to preserve the stone bridge.

The level of public attention reached a high point when a fifth-grade class from Tuttle School took on the issue. The class had been studying bridges when they learned about the DOT project. Guided by their teacher, the class researched the history of the Main Street bridge and the proposed redesign. They held a bake sale, raising \$400 for the East Haven Historical Society. And, they collected 190 signatures on a petition asking DOT to repair and reuse the old bridge.

In May, two DOT engineers visited the class to present their design and discuss it with the students. As reported in the newspapers, Rabih Barakat, principal engineer in bridge design for DOT, and Pinith Mar, project engineer for highway design, told the students that their interest, along with that of other members of the public, led DOT to reconsider its plans.

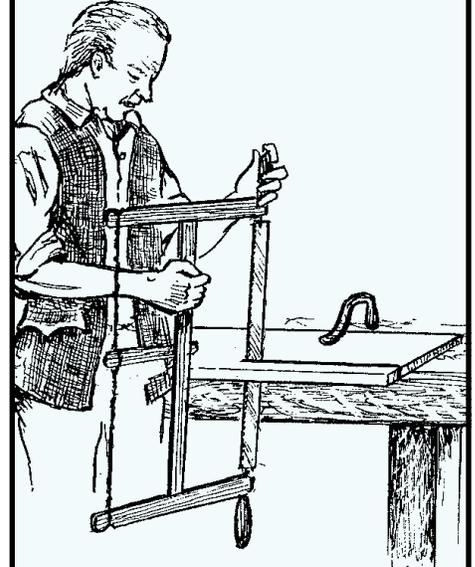
There is still much to be done, says Mr. Barakat. The intersection design has to be reworked; the condition of the old bridge must be carefully analyzed; and as with any old structure there remains the possibility that further work will reveal more serious structural problems. But it looks as though the old bridge will continue to serve travelers for many years to come, thanks to the citizens who voiced their concerns and the engineers who listened to them. Best of all, the next generation of East Haven preservationists has started exercising its influence. 🌿

The Connecticut Department of Transportation is reconsidering plans to replace the Farm River Bridge in East Haven

C. Wigren

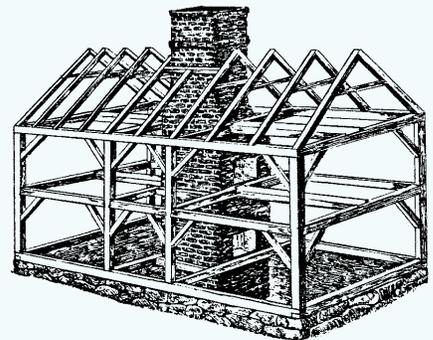


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cerns. He also did a Google search for area scrap metal dealers, and sent emails to them.

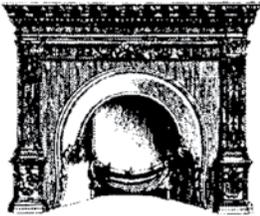
As for construction materials like gutters and downspouts, pipes, and wiring, owners are pretty much out of luck, since these items are not recognizable or traceable.

Unfortunately, there is little likelihood that the climate that encourages these thefts will improve in the near future. Continuing demand for metals for manufacturing and development worldwide along with continuing economic uncertainty mean that historic buildings and monuments will remain vulnerable. ❧

Montville: Plans for a 120-unit affordable housing complex were put on hold after the State Historic Preservation Office issued an opinion that the proposed site is of historical and spiritual significance to the Mohegan tribe. The site is part of a larger Traditional Cultural Property zone that the tribe has identified for possible nomination to the National Register, and the opinion came as the result of historical and archaeological assessment required for projects that have state or federal funding. The developers have indicated their willingness to seek a workable solution with the tribe.

New Canaan: A sentence from another article accidentally landed in the *New Canaan* note in the September/October issue. In the meantime, the Trust has received more information on the project. Here is a corrected version. Developers have received a permit to tear down the Jelliff Mill (1949), just months after the structure was listed on the State Register. The building is the last of a series of mills that have stood on the site since the 1700s. The town's Historic Review Committee voted not to invoke the delay of demolition ordinance, incongruously saying that the mill had no historic significance. In addition, the developers

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plan to raze the miller's house (c.1800). The historic stone dam is being replaced with a new concrete structure, and then the site will be redeveloped with townhouses, some of which will be priced as affordable housing, easing the approval process.

New Haven: Physical restoration and spiritual renewal go hand in hand at the Orchard Street Shul (1924, NR), which is holding weekly services after years of semi-dormancy. This summer the congregation began a rehabilitation that include repointing brick walls and steps, reglazing window, improved life safety systems and mechanical improvements. The synagogue's website reports that for the first time in years worshippers used the front doors for Rosh Hashanah.

Pomfret: Christ Episcopal Church (1882, NR) has lent its baptismal font to the Museum of Biblical Art, in New York, as part of an exhibition titled "Louis C. Tiffany and the Art of Devotion." Although Tiffany is best known for stained glass, his firm designed a wide range of decorative elements for houses of worship, including pews, candlesticks, altars, wall paintings, mosaics, and vestments. Christ Church's font, of white marble carved with flowers and cherubs and inlaid with glass tiles, will be in New York through January 20; for more information visit www.mobia.org.

Southbury: The Southbury Land Trust and the Town of Southbury received approval to collect contributions under the Neighborhood Assistance Act to buy a conservation easement on Stillmeadow Farm (NR), the home of author Gladys Taber, who wrote about country life. Under the Act, businesses may be eligible for a 60 percent tax credit for contributions of \$250 or more. The easement will complement nearby holdings by the Land Trust as well as a preservation easement that the Connecticut Trust holds on a neighboring farm. The organization received pledges for about \$5,000 and is applying for state grants, which they expect will cover the bulk of the purchase price.

Torrington: The Torrington Historic Preservation Trust waived the delay of demolition period for an historic warehouse (1912, NR) on Water Street, agreeing with the owner that the building was too deteriorated to save. A few years ago, the city railroad station, located on the same property, met the same fate. In response, the Torrington Register Citizen called for an inventory of at-risk industrial properties, in hopes that some might get needed repairs before it's too late. 🌿

barrel-vaulted ceiling, added a separate chancel, and replaced the two tiers of windows with a single row of full-height openings. Further alterations in the 1890s included the boarded ceilings and an enlarged chancel. These changes reflected changes in Episcopal worship, the adoption of ritual and a stronger focus on the altar instead of just the pulpit. They also reflected a more romantic view of religion, with Romanesque and Gothic detailing seen as more Christian than pagan classicism, and stained glass and varnished or grained woodwork to give the space a soft glow and a sense of separateness from the world outside.

It's remarkable that so complete an interior remodeling scarcely touched the exterior, apart from a new front door with a big Romanesque arch (framed by two incongruously delicate Ionic columns, probably reused from the original Federal design). But since the interior work ended up costing several times the original budget, perhaps the congregation decided to focus its resources on the worship space. It's even more remarkable, given the building's Federal origins, that this space made it through the twentieth century without some effort to recapture its "Colonial" origins—at least a coat of white paint over the varnished woodwork. But it did, and although the church's split personality is a bit surprising it's also a vivid snapshot of the changes that reshaped Connecticut in the 19th century. 🌿

Saint John's Church is located at 92 Main Street in Warehouse Point. The church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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**A Surprise Inside
Saint John's Episcopal Church,
Warehouse Point, East Windsor**

Behind the well-preserved Federal façade of Saint John's Episcopal Church lies a surprise: a nearly intact mid-19th century interior, evidence of big changes that took place in the antebellum years: the aesthetic shift from classicism to Romanticism and the liturgical shift in the Episcopal church as it sought to recapture medieval worship patterns and provide appropriate settings for them. The original building was the work of the Federal-era

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builder/architect Samuel Belcher. Closely resembling Congregationalist meeting houses of the era, it was a simple rectangle with delicate neoclassical ornament and an interior with galleries and a big Palladian window above a central high pulpit. The church was moved across the street in 1844 and gained a new, Greek Revival-style steeple.

The big change came in 1855, when the New Haven architects Henry Austin and David Russell Brown removed the galleries, installed chamfered posts to support a new,

continued on page 15

C. Wigren

