

Executive Director

## Barnum Museum named National Historic Landmark

he Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, originally the Barnum Institute of Science and History, became Connecticut's 65<sup>th</sup> National Historic Landmark in August. National Historic Landmarks are the highest historic designation that a property can receive in the United States. There are about 2,600 NHLs in the country, each representing an outstanding aspect of American history or culture.

The designation recognizes the museum's association with the innovative self-made businessman P. T. Barnum (1810-1891), as explained in the following excerpts from the nomination prepared by Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., with Kathleen Maher, the museum's executive director.

"P. T. Barnum made outstanding contributions to the shaping and expression of American cultural values throughout his illustrious career. His cultivation of instructional entertainment on a mass scale from the 1830s to the 1880s defined American popular and museum culture in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and influenced its development throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and into the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In his family-friendly show-business ventures, Barnum presented speculation within a world of curiosity to encourage people to derive their own opinions and truths, explore the irrational, and examine imaginative possibility. The Barnum Institute, established at the end of Barnum's career and completed in 1893, after his death, embodies the mature and culminating vision of entertainment and education that Barnum successfully pioneered and developed throughout his remarkable life and work."

Barnum's association with museums began when he opened his American Museum in New York, in 1842. "Barnum's establishment catered to all classes of spectator: farmers, tradesmen, apprentices, laborers, scientists, writers, statesmen, religious leaders, and ambassadors. His exhibits appealed to men and women across generations and ethnicities. Barnum later described his intentions regarding the American Museum: 'The one end aimed at was to make men and women think and talk and wonder, and, as a practical result, go to the Museum. This was my constant study and occupation.' By including something for everyone and combining entertainment with education, he not only endowed his museum with a layer of respectability but also increased ticket sales. In the process, he created an alternative forum for people of all types to learn about the world around them.

"The Barnum Institute was the last of several public buildings that Barnum conceived for the purposes of intellectual exchange and public instructional entertainment. He intended it to be a research library, museum, and lecture hall and to serve



as an architectural landmark.... Barnum donated the land for the Institute, selected the architect, directed the planning, donated the property to the city's scientific and historical organizations (the Bridgeport Scientific Society, Fairfield County Historical Society, and Bridgeport Medical Society), and assembled key collections. The Institute opened in 1893 and remained under the operation and oversight of its original occupants...through 1934. At that time, due to financial difficulties, the City of Bridgeport became, and remains today, the owner of the building and collections; the Barnum Museum Foundation established in 1988 maintains stewardship of both as the Barnum Museum.

"The Barnum Institute expresses P. T. Barnum's enduring national legacy, providing an exceptional place for public enjoyment and education that has continued largely uninterrupted since his death. [During that time], scholars have noted the

#### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

elcome to *Preservation Matters*, our annual report edition of *Connecticut Preservation News*, for fiscal year 2022-2023. We chose "Preservation Matters" to distinguish the annual reports as a place to summarize the work we have accomplished together and on your behalf. The work of preservation is important and a way to strengthen the quality of life in Connecticut. We are proud to share this year's accomplishments with you and to introduce some new themes that are emerging. This work is best illustrated in

terms of our three strategic goals.

To make a **Big Impact** our "on-the-ground team" worked across the state to offer preservation guidance, fund preservation through grants, protect legacies through easements, provide fee-for-service consulting, and expand partnerships. We identify places that matter.

We are offering public programs to Engage and Inspire. Programs in our live series, Talking about Preservation, are available soon afterwards on our YouTube channel. Read below about in-person events

where we celebrated new partnerships and preservation excellence.

Stewardship and growth, so necessary to Strengthen the Organization, were led by staff and board members. More members, increased generosity, new trustees, and growing numbers of social media and website views make us stronger. We welcomed new Trustees Brian Smith (Colchester) and Priyanka Panjwani (Hartford) and said thank you and bade a fond farewell to Elaine Stiles (Old Lyme) and Regan Miner (Norwich). We are stronger because of members like you who share in our successes and support our organization. Before we turn the calendar for a new year, we take this moment to note our gratitude for all we have been able to accomplish together.

Happy holidays to all!

Caroline Sloat
Chair

Jun Um farraro
Jane Montanaro
Executive Director

## **Upcoming Meetings**

#### Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

December 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

—Hybrid meeting

January 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

—Hybrid Meeting

To participate, contact Jonathan Kinney (860) 500-2380; Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov

#### State Historic Preservation Board

December 1, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

—Hybrid meeting

To participate, contact Jenny Scofield (860) 500-2343; Jenny Scofield@ct.gov

For more information call (860) 500-2343 or visit portal.ct.gov/DECD/Services/Historic-Preservation/About-the-State-Historic-Preservation-Office

Meetings are hybrid meetings, held virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at the State Historic Preservation Office, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford.

Preservation Connecticut is a statewide nonprofit membership organization established as the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation 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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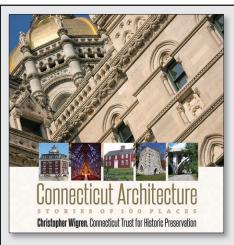
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—David K. Left, town historian, Canton

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## MAKE A BIG IMPACT Strategic Plan Goal #1



1772 Foundation grants: Harriet Beecher Stowe House

772 Foundation grants: Thomspon Historical Society



Circuit Rider Mike Forino at Strong Farm

Between July 2022 and June 2023 Preservation Connecticut made a significant impact on Connecticut's communities.

#### Circuit Riders by the numbers:

- 251 visits to help homeowners, organizations, municipalities, and developers with their preservation needs
- 104 communities covering all of Connecticut's 8 counties
- 14 technical consultancies
- 1 threatened property referred to the Attorney General under CEPA
- 13 easement inspections made of sites with SHPO preservation restrictions

#### Grants by the numbers:

- 72 requests for funding, totaling \$741,780
- 30 applications received, for \$295,003
- 19 grants awarded, totaling \$183,500
- 14 technical assistance consultancies, totaling \$22,587.50

Count on our Circuit Riders to provide expert guidance when facing critical stewardship decisions.

Preservation Connecticut stays on the front lines of preservation, thanks to our Circuit Rider program, established in 2001. Since 2010, support has come primarily from the State Historic Preservation Office, through the Community Investment Act.

Our Circuit Riders provide immediate, on-site, no-cost assistance to historical societies, property owners, developers, elected officials, and local preservation commissions across Connecticut. They offer six important services:

- *technical assistance*, to help evaluate planning and capital needs and identify appropriate preservation techniques;
- *financial guidance*, to provide and identify appropriate grants, loans, tax credits, and other funding tools;
- leadership in convening and negotiating among stakeholders;
- *policy and legal support*, to empower communities to tailor laws and regulations to protect their assets;
- archaeological assistance, in the field and to SHPO and Office of the State Archaeologist; and
- *National Register*, helping the State Historic Preservation Office review nominations made after 1983 for updating.

In providing these services, the Circuit Riders aim both to ensure that historic places are repaired, rehabilitated, and reused, and to increase local capacity for stewardship and good policy making.

Between July 2022 and June 2023, Circuit Riders answered 251 calls for help, traveling to 104 towns in all Connecticut counties for site visits and community meetings.

## Funding preservation through grants

Since 2003, Preservation Connecticut has helped distribute over \$7.1 million in matching grants to local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private property owners. These grants have provided funding for community planning, maintenance, repairs, architectural design, and engineering studies. See page 7 for a list of recipients.

#### The 1772 Foundation Connecticut Historic Preservation Grants

For the thirteenth year, Preservation Connecticut has partnered with The 1772 Foundation to distribute maintenance and repair grants to nonprofit organizations. This year, the partnership granted \$134,000 to repair 15 historic places. Inquiries—from 55 museums and historical organizations in 45 communities—demonstrated a capital repair need of more than \$500,000 in work.

#### Maintenance & Repair Grants

Preservation Connecticut maintains one of the few programs in Connecticut to help religious institutions with maintenance and repair needs. Our grants are funded by the State Historic Preservation Office using money generated by the Community Investment Act. This year we awarded \$49,500 to four recipients, each evaluated for urgency, organizational capacity, and community engagement.

#### Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Consultancies

Often, a small grant at the right time can make a significant difference. The Circuit Riders offer quick, targeted consultation by qualified professionals for structural, architectural, code, or other evaluations intended to spur further investment in historic sites. Additional technical assistance consultations supported our advocacy for threatened sites under the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act. The success of this program depends on the consultants who offer their expertise at a reduced rate and with rapid response.

#### **Protecting legacies through easements**

Preservation Connecticut provides stewardship for Connecticut's historic treasures with our own monitored easement program, ensuring the maintenance of the buildings and owners' legacies of care for future generations. PCT's easement properties include commercial buildings, condominium complexes, single-family houses, and historic farmsteads. This year we gained another easement property, the former Litchfield County Courthouse (1888, 1930), which is being redeveloped as a boutique hotel. Staff also performed 32 regular easement inspections and provided technical advice to owners of easement properties.

#### Fee-for-service work

Preservation Connecticut staff provides consulting services such as preparation of historic designation nominations and historic tax credit applications.

- Hilliard Mills, Manchester: PCT staff continues to assist the developer of the Hilliard Mill complex in applying for state tax credits to rehabilitate four buildings on site: the 1895 wood frame textile manufacturing building (which has already been fitted out for new mixed-use business space), and the historic office. In December of 2022, the five-part tax credit application process was completed for Building #4!
- Staff prepared a National Register nomination for the D&H Scovil Company Industrial District in Haddam in anticipation of proposed rehabilitation of one of the mill sites. The nomination was submitted with a Part 1 Historic Preservation Certification Application which was approved by both SHPO and NPS, so work could move forward. The four-mill district represents an unusually intact example of the evolution of hydropower infrastructure and manufacturing operations focused almost entirely on a single product (hoes) for over 125 years by several generations of one family.
- The Mary Wade Assisted Living and Nursing Home in New Haven's Quinnipiac River National Register District has been planning upgrades and expansion. PCT is providing review and guidance on rehab schemes to Svigals Architects with the goal of qualifying for historic rehabilitation tax credits while meeting competing programmatic needs.
- In Simsbury, staff prepared a State Register nomination for tobacco fields and sheds where Martin Luther King, Jr., worked as a teenager. The experience helped form his career as a minister and civil rights activist.



Docomomo Symposiur



Circuit Rider Mike Forino at Valley Falls Farm



Easement Inspection at Adam Stanton House

## MAKE A BIG IMPACT Strategic Plan Goal #1



Chris Wigren teaching at Eli Whitney Museum summer camp



Maintenance and Repair grants: Pitts Chapel UFWB Church, New Haven

#### Identifying places that matter

In September 2022, consultants from Red Bridge Group wrapped up the Olmsted in Connecticut landscape documentation project, a joint effort by the State Historic Preservation Office and PCT. Comprising a detailed context report and 139 site surveys, the survey received the Connecticut chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architect's Olmsted Award. Staff began making the information public through talks, newsletter articles, and site visits.

Preservation Connecticut staff and interns researched Connecticut locations listed in *The Negro Travelers' Green Book*, an annual guide of businesses welcoming African Americans, published from 1937 to 1967. The information will be posted to *The Architecture of The Negro Travelers' Green Book*, a national website that documents places listed throughout the years the guide was published.

#### **Expanding partnerships**

Working with diverse partners helps Preservation Connecticut maximize its impact. While we proudly maintain a vast network of collaborators, the following are of particular note:

- Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), statutory partners since 1975, providing financial and programmatic support to our Circuit Rider program and the Olmsted survey.
- This marks 44 years of partnership with *Connecticut Preservation Action*, which defends historic preservation policies and funding at the State Capitol and in Washington.
- Eli Whitney Museum: PCT staff helped lead a summer camp program on the parkmaking legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted.
- *Touch a Trade*, whose mission is to support the development of the next generation of trades and craftspeople.
- American Institute of Architects, Connecticut Chapter: for the fourth year we jointly presented the Elizabeth Mills Brown Awards honoring projects that are noteworthy for both preservation and architectural design.
- Eastern Connecticut Land Bank, which works with municipalities to return distressed, underutilized, blighted, brownfield and historic properties to productive uses.
- *SustainableCT* supports inclusive, resilient, and vibrant Connecticut municipalities by providing comment and review of sustainability actions in historic preservation.
- *Docomomo-US*: PCT staff participated in the National Symposium as both attendees and presenters.



Maintenance and Repairs grants: St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Litchfield

• We are working with the *Central Connecticut State University Public History Graduate Program* and *Southern Connecticut State University* to strengthen our intern program.



#### Grant recipients, 2022-2023

#### 1772 Foundation Grants

- 1 Branford Land Trust: \$10,000 for Stony Creek School window restoration
- 2 Adam Stanton House, Clinton: \$10,000 for window restoration
- 3 Ball and Socket Arts, Cheshire: \$10,000 for window restoration
- Madison Historical Society: \$10,000 for Allis-Bushnell house painting
- Morris Historical Society: \$10,000 for 1772 Schoolhouse roofing
- 1 Mystic Seaport Museum: \$10,000 for American Seamen's Friend Society Reading Room roofing
- New Milford Historical Society: \$7,000 for bank building masonry repairs
- 1 Newtown Historical Society: \$10,000 for Matthew Curtiss, Jr. house roofing
- Norwich Arts Center: \$7,500 for St. Mary's Total Abstinence and Benevolent Society building floor repairs
- Old Saybrook Historical Society: \$10,000 for General William Hart house roofing
- 11 Thompson Historical Society: \$10,000 for Old Town Hall Painting
- 12 Gaylord Hospital, Wallingford: \$6,000 for Alaric Persky building roofing
- 13 Steep Rock Association, Washington: \$3,500 for Isaac Camp house chimney repair
- Windham Free Library Association: \$10,000 for Dr. Chester Hunt's office painting
- 15 Windham Preservation: \$10,000 for Windham Inn roofing

#### Maintenance & Repair Grants:

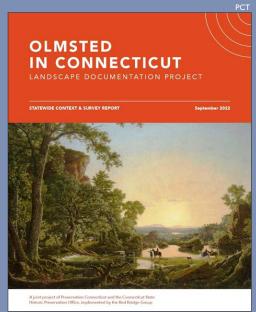
- 16 Barkhamsted Congregational Church: \$15,000 for painting
- 17 Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford: \$15,000 for chimney repairs
- 18 St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Litchfield: \$7,000 for electrical upgrades
- (19) Pitts Chapel UFWB Church, New Haven: \$12,500 for boiler replacement

#### **Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Consultancies**

- 20 Church Farm, Ashford: Cirrus Structural Engineering, structural assessment and repair design.
- 11 Hazenhurst Barn, Haddam: DeStefano & Chamberlain Inc., structural report.
- 22 Greater Refuge Church of Christ, Hartford: Crosskey Architects, scoping for water management.
- United Methodist Church, Hartford: Crosskey Architects, condition assessment.
- Greenville Congregational Church, Norwich: Cirrus Structural Engineering, engineering assessment
- 25 Children's Learning Center, Old Lyme: DeStefano & Chamberlain Inc., structural assessment.
- 26 Duck River Bridge, Old Lyme: DeStefano & Chamberlain Inc., structural assessment.
- 27 Redding Historical Society Barn: The DiSalvo Engineering Group, structural assessment.
- Thomaston Opera House: DeStefano & Chamberlain Inc., roof structural assessment Friends of Valley Farms, Vernon: Cirrus Structural Engineering, structural assessment.
- Maud Hughes House, West Haven: Crosskey Architects, condition assessment.
- 31 Ward-Heitman House, West Haven: Crosskey Architects, condition assessment
- Perro House, Woodbury: DeStefano & Chamberlain Inc, structural review.
- TechBuilt house, North Stonington: Leland Torrence Enterprises, deconstruction estimate.



Presentation of ASLA Olmsted award



Olmsted in Connecticut: Landscape Documentation Proiect

## ENGAGE & INSPIRE Strategic Plan Goal #2



PCT staff with Rep. Jahana Haynes at Saturday in the Park in Waterbury



Picturing History exhibition reception in New Canaan



Connecticut Archaeology Fair at Old New-Gate Prison

Preservation Connecticut aims to engage and inspire new and more diverse audiences to support preservation. We spent the 2022-2023 fiscal year leading exciting public programs, advocating for strong policies protecting our heritage, and celebrating preservation excellence through our annual awards. In the process, we embraced dozens of partner organizations and hundreds of new audience members.

#### Creating exciting public programs

We offer public programs that connect local people with historic places in our communities.

This year, Preservation Connecticut sponsored 27 events around the state.

- "Saturday in the Park," a collaboration between PCT, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the City of Waterbury, celebrated the Olmsted heritage in Connecticut, bringing landscape stewards together at Waterbury's Lewis Fulton Memorial Park.
- Our second juried photography contest, "Picturing History: Historic Landscapes of Connecticut," toured the state with stops at the Woodbridge Library; Carriage Barn Arts Center at Waveny Park, New Canaan; Kent Art Association; Norwich Arts Center; and the Loos Center at Woodstock Academy.
- We continued "Talking About Preservation." These virtual conversations give us the opportunity to share happenings in the world of preservation as well as engage community members (see sidebar). Since we started offering these programs in 2020, we have reached more than 4,221 individuals. The programs are housed in our YouTube library and continue to be viewed.
- In collaboration with SHPO, the Connecticut Office of Archaeology, and the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, we organized and hosted the Connecticut Archaeology Fair at Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine in East Granby.
- Preservation Connecticut offered members a tour of Stamford's First Presbyterian Church ("Fish Church") to see a beautiful mid-20th-century church and learn about the extensive restoration work underway.
- In partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office, staff provided training workshops for historic district commissions in West Hartford, Enfield, Cheshire, Woodbury, and virtually. We also revamped our Local Historic Districts website with the help of a Connecticut Cultural Fund grant through Connecticut Humanities. The new, user-friendly website has a wide array of resources for commissioners and property owners.

## **Advocating for our historic heritage**

We champion preservation of Connecticut's historic places. In FY2022-2023 Preservation Connecticut advocated for improved land use practices, building upon statewide preservation tools, and strengthening of the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit program.

The 2023 legislative session was very active. At the end of the session, our lobbyist's weekly bill tracking report listed 34 bills—regarding stone walls, monuments, brownfields, abandoned property, a preservation toolkit, Seaside State Park, the historic homes tax credit program, and more. Although most did not move forward, changes to the historic homes tax credit were enacted, as well as a working group to study state review processes.

In addition, Preservation Connecticut Circuit Riders and other staff gave ample support for local advocacy efforts. We provided guidance for threatened properties in

communities including Clinton, Colchester, Hartford, Mystic and Stamford. Of note, the Deborah Chapel in Hartford (a National Trust for Historic Preservation 11 Most Endangered listing) was lost to demolition. Preservation Connecticut helps local advocates write and post petitions in support of threatened places.

Preservation Connecticut continued its partnership with 80 other organizations and many individuals advocating more equitable zoning practices. Elements that align with preservation practices include support of transit-oriented development, walkable neighborhoods, and the reasonable consideration of the state's historic, tribal, cultural, and environmental resources. This legislative session, the group advocated for Live Work Ride, which established funds for the Office of Responsible Growth.

On the national scene, PCT worked with local advocates, including Connecticut Preservation Action and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, to track the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO), which will strengthen the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit program. Our executive director travelled to Washington, D.C., in March for Preservation Advocacy Week and met with Connecticut's Congressional delegation, accompanied by SHPO staff and U.Conn. law student Ernest Andreoli.

#### **Celebrating preservation excellence**

Preservation Connecticut's 2023 Annual Awards celebrated the accomplishments of people who made our state a better place to live by preserving our historic places. These awardees empowered volunteers, created jobs and homes, proclaimed civic values, and strengthened communities.

#### Awards of Merit:

- Captain Mordecai Prindle house, Ansonia
- Bristol Arts and Innovation Magnet School
- 99 Pratt Street, Hartford
- Hotel Marcel, New Haven
- New London City Hall City Council Chamber
- Shirt Factory Lofts, Norwalk
- · Old Mill Grocery and Deli, Westport

*Harlan H. Griswold Award* (presented jointly with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office):

• Jared I. Edwards, for professional accomplishments as a preservation architect and personal leadership with organizations at the local, state, regional, and national levels.

*Elizabeth Mills Brown Awards* (presented jointly with the Connecticut chapter, American Institute of Architects):

#### Excellence awards:

- Legacy Theater, Branford: Wyeth Architects LLC
- Ball & Socket Arts-Building 2, Cheshire: Maier Design Group, LLC
- Hotel Marcel, New Haven: Becker + Becker

#### Merit awards:

- Pine Orchard Union Chapel, Branford: Joseph Sepot Architects
- Ferguson Library, Stamford: Silver, Petrucelli & Associates
- Montgomery Mill, Windsor Locks: Crosskey Architects, LLC

#### Commendation for respect for historic fabric and context:

 87 Trumbull Street building move, New Haven: Petra Construction, David Thompson Architects

#### **Talking About Preservation topics**

- When preservation isn't possible
- Bringing back the trades
- Historic preservation and affordable housing
- Preserving land and buildings
- Finding Lustron houses
- Interpreting energy at museums and historic sites
- Funding for rural resources
- The Builder Book: Carpenters, Masons and Contractors in Historic New Haven
- Docomomo and protecting modern buildings



Touring Stamford's First Presbyterian Church



Attending Preservation Advocacy Week in Washington: Jonathan Kinney, SHPO; Rep. John Larson; Catherine Labadia, SHPO; Jane Montanaro; Ernest Andreoli, U.Conn. Law

## STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION Strategic Plan Goal #3



Trustees toured Hotel Marcel in New Haven



Young preservationist Brody Sorensen loves old barns like this one at Hunt Hill Farm in New Milford.

As outlined in our Strategic Plan, Preservation Connecticut must ensure that it remains strong in four key areas: finances, membership, staff, and board.

*Finances.* The value and visibility of PCT's work attracts financial support from a wide range of sources, and a growing endowment supports our programs and projects.

Public sources remain the largest segment of support, demonstrating that our status as a statutory partner of the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office is strong and fruitful for both parties, and for Connecticut. In addition to an annual statutory payment, we received Partners in Preservation grants to fund the Circuit Rider program. This critical preservation funding comes from the Community Investment Act, enacted in 2005 with bipartisan support to provide a dedicated fund to open space conservation, farmland protection, historic preservation, and affordable housing.

We also received a \$30,000 grant from Connecticut Humanities' Connecticut Cultural Fund in December of 2022. This funding has enabled us to enhance our digital infrastructure, specifically to augment and maintain our five survey websites chronicling town greens, barns, industrial mill buildings, local historic districts, and places that inspired 20th-century artists and writers.

As for private support, we are ever grateful to the foundations and individual donors who loyally support our work throughout the year. The 1772 Foundation, MLE Foundation, Anderson-Paffard Foundation, and others have supported us for ten or more years.

The Legacy Society and its bequests continue to be the strongest vehicle for building the endowment. The Society's chair, Ed Gerber, has been working with development staff to promote the Society and celebrate those who have made commitments to join the Society and ensure that the future of Preservation Connecticut remains financially secure. This year we were fortunate to receive a bequest of \$138,500 from the estate of Thomas R. Talamini. Along with his late wife, Jane, Mr. Talamini was a longtime supporter of Preservation Connecticut and other local historical organizations. His thoughtful planning will extend their legacy for generations.

*Membership.* The people who join Preservation Connecticut not only provide financial support. They also are often our "boots on the ground" to keep staff updated on preservation efforts, and threats, in Connecticut communities. Our membership grows and becomes engaged. We are proud to say we reached our membership dollar goal this year and our retention rate and new member acquisition rate remains steady.

**Staff.** The professionals who carry out our day-to-day work are knowledgeable, effective, and able preservationists. This year our staff increased by one, thanks to the creation of the Edward F. Gerber Fellowship, generously funded by our Trustee. Gerber Fellow Anna Fossi is working with PCT staff and East Bridgeport's Washington Park neighborhood to bolster preservation efforts for historic churches and the larger local community.

Interns are an important part of our team. This year we welcomed Daniella Occhineri of Southern Connecticut State University and Cecilia Puckhaber of Central Connecticut State University, who researched and documented Connecticut's surviving Negro Traveler's Green Book sites. Central Connecticut State University Public History undergrad Amelia Mower worked with us for over a year helping with grant applications, gathering information for our Local Historic Districts website upgrade, and cataloguing our preservation library. Now working towards her Master's in Historic Preservation at Cornell, Amelia says, "I am so grateful for my time at PCT and everything that I learned. It has helped so much in my schoolwork! We are doing interior/exterior descriptive analyses of buildings, preparing an inventory of houses for a Historic District nomination, and reading a lot of books that I recognize from PCT's library right now."

**Board.** The Board of Trustees is an integral part of our organization's success. Comprising preservationists from around the state, the board lends critical professional insights as it governs and guides the organization. This year we welcomed two new trustees, Pieter Roos of West Simsbury, and Priyanka Panjwani of Hartford. Outside of PCT, trustees serve leadership roles in nonprofit management, higher education, government, real estate, finance, architecture, arts and culture, and more. The board is approximately 50 percent women and 20 percent with diverse background. Board members pride themselves on being a working board. Many have joined staff in the field on Circuit Rider visits, easement inspections, and events—in addition to rolling up their sleeves and working out strategic and organizational issues at board and committee meetings.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT June 30, 2023

#### **Operating Revenue**

Total Revenue	\$1,272,884	100%	
☐ Program Services	\$125,181	10%	
Other Government Grants	\$433,116	34%	64%  (all govt. grants)
Government Statutory Grant	\$380,000	30%	
■ Individuals and Organizations	\$149,587	12%	
■ Corporations and Foundations	\$185,000	14%	

### **Operating Expenses**

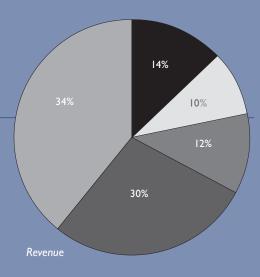
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,146,745	100%
Administration	\$117,494	10%
■ Development/Fundraising	\$74,239	6%
Grants	\$250,529	22%
■ Program Services	\$704,483	62%

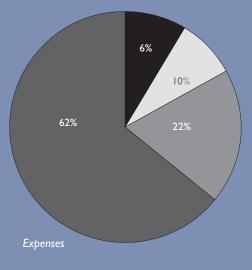
#### **Balance sheet**

June 30, 2023

#### **Currant Assets**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$308,166	
Operating Investments	\$1,715,316	
Other Assets	\$453,329	
Property and Equipment, Net	\$176,129	
Total Assets	\$2,652,940	
Accounts Payable	\$8,876	
Grants Payable	\$27,300	
Other Current Liabilities	\$100,082	
Long Term Debt	\$76,396	
Total Liabilities	\$212,654	
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,652,940	





## Thank You to Our Supporters in 2022-2023!

#### Donors July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

Great care has been taken to ensure that all donations are accurately acknowledged. If an error has been made, please notify our office.

#### **Easement Donations**

Greater Litchfield Preservation Trust

#### Chairman's Circle \$100,000 and above

The 1772 Foundation State Historic Preservation Office. Department of Economic and Community Development

#### Chairman's Circle \$10,000 and above

Connecticut Humanities Edward F. Gerber Ellen Gould Mr. and Mrs. Peter L. Malkin MLE Foundation Suzanne Salomon

#### Chairman's Circle \$5,000 and above

Anderson-Paffard Foundation, Inc.

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## Briefly noted

#### Bridgeport to Fairfield.

A proposal by United Illuminating to add new transmission lines through Fairfield and Bridgeport has encountered opposition on many fronts. In submissions to the Connecticut Siting Council, which oversees the placement of utility infrastructure, UI has called for the lines to be carried on monopoles 95 to 145 feet tall and located in a new right-of-way running parallel to the railroad tracks. There will be visual impacts to the Southport historic district in Fairfield, the Railroad Avenue historic district (pictured), the Bridgeport Downtown North and South historic districts, the Barnum-Palliser historic district, and the Mary and Eliza Freeman houses—all listed on the National Register—in addition to the Barnum Museum, which just celebrated its designation as a National Historic Landmark. Additionally, UI's plans currently call for permanent and temporary construction easements to be placed on several historic properties. Many Fairfield residents protest that they received no notice of the project until after registration for the comment period had closed. Those who did receive notice say it lacked crucial information such as consequences for owners potentially incumbered by permanent easements. The Town of Fairfield along with several private parties have obtained intervenor status to provide formal comment on the project before the Siting Council.

#### Mystic.

Mystic Seaport's steamboat *Sabino* returned to the water this summer with a new diesel electric motor. Built in 1907 in East Boothbay, Maine, *Sabino* is a National Historic Landmark, one of only two surviving members of the "mosquito fleet" of small steamers that served the inland waters of the United States. *Sabino* still has her original coal-fired steam engine, and it still works, but the Seaport added the second engine because it couldn't find qualified engineers to operate it while carrying passengers, in accordance with Coast Guard regulations. In addition, diesel fuel is much cleaner than coal—



Christopher Gasiorek, vice president for watercraft preservation and programs at the museum, told the Connecticut Examiner that operating the *Sabino* 

on coal for one day produced the same amount of CO2 emissions as driving an average car from Mystic to Anchorage, Alaska, and back.

Mystic Seaport Museur

Town of West Hartford, design by Crosskey Architects LLC





#### Wethersfield.

A preservation easement donated to Preservation Connecticut will ensure the long term protection of the Curtis Welles house. The house was built about 1790 and attained its current form with expansion and remodeling in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; it is prominently located facing the Northbrick Green. The easement, donated by owners Robert and Amalie Montstream requires that

the house be kept in good repair, and that Preservation Connecticut approve any exterior changes. The agreement also prohibits the subdivision of the property (which could accommodate as many as two additional houses), protecting the scale and character of Old Wethersfield National Register and Local Historic District.

#### West Hartford.



A developer is proposing to convert the former Agudas Achim synagogue to apartments. Completed in 1969, the building has been vacant since 2018, when the congregation merged with United Synagogues. Trout Brook Realty Advisors, a nonprofit development company operated by the West Hartford Housing Authority, wants to keep a portion of the synagogue building and construct additions for 49 units of housing, some of which will be considered affordable. Jill Corrado, executive director of the housing authority, describes the project as 'adaptive reuse.' Renderings posted on the town website show the existing facade with its rectilinear colored-glass windows bookended by new construction at either end. The Connecticut Insider reports that this project is part of a West Hartford trend of converting unused or underused buildings to housing, including the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry convent on Park Road, the Puritan Furniture store on New Britain Avenue and the West Hartford Inn. Reusing existing buildings lessens waste while preserving a community's history.





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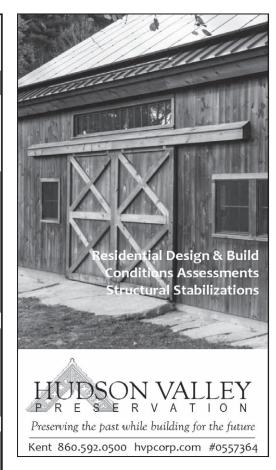
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## HISTORIC PROPERTIES EXCHANGE

Threatened Buildings and Easement Properties Available — November/December 2023

Preservation easements protect the historic character of old buildings, structures and landscapes and require approval of proposed changes. When one of the many properties throughout the state on which Preservation Connecticut holds easements is on the market, we may list it here. To learn how to safeguard your property for future generations through an easement, explore Stewardship on our website, preservationct. org/steward, or contact Christopher Wigren, Deputy Director.

### Samuel Ferris House (c. 1760, c. 1800) 1 Cary Road, Riverside \$945,000

Oldest house in Riverside and one of few remaining 18th-century buildings on Boston Post Road in Greenwich. Original Cape built c.1760 with west bay added c.1800. Remained in Ferris family for nearly 200 years. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1,284 sq. ft. 0.25-acres. Listed on National Register of Historic Places and therefore eligible for historic rehabilitation tax credits. Attained Local Historic Property designation under stewardship of nonprofit Historic Properties of Greenwich.

Contact: Martha Z. Jeffrey, Sothebys, 203-964-7800, martha.jeffrey@sothebys.realty





## 132 Prospect Street, Stamford (1928)

Colonial Revival building in downtown Stamford. Originally Stamford Jewish Center which remained until the 1970s but relocated due to space demands. Later housed Yeshiva Bais Binyomin, a school for Jewish higher learning. Two-story brick building includes pilasters, parapet, and quoins adorning the exterior. May be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places to obtain State historic rehabilitation tax credits. Building area is 30,774 sq. ft., on 0.62 acres.

Contact: Matt Armstrong, Newmark, 203-580-3153, matt.armstrong@nmrk.com



# Bailey Manufacturing Company (1888, c.1920, post-1947) 207 Church Street, Wethersfield \$1,575,000

This historic industrial building was constructed for the Bailey Manufacturing Company, which made patented letter-copying machines and copying pads. Later occupants included the National Machine Company (printing presses), the Gra-Rock Company (ginger ale), and the Clearing House Auction Gallery. Preservation Connecticut's Making Places industrial heritage project identified the property as potentially eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places, which would allow it to qualify for State historic rehabilitation tax credits. Building area is 21,150 sq.f.t; 0.88 acres.

Contact: JD Altobello, Trophy Properties, 617-997-7157, jd@trophyprop.com



# **20 Mountain Street, Rockville, Vernon** (1916, 1945, 1978) **\$1,200,000**

Redevelopment opportunity for historic industrial complex on 1.19 acres in Rockville. Originally occupied by E.J. Martin's Sons Company, producer of silk fishing line. Bristol's Horton Manufacturing Company, manufacturer of steel fishing rods and reels, acquired E. J. Martin's Sons Company in 1919 and continued to operate at the location

until the late 1950s. Listed in Preservation Connecticut's *Mills: Making Places of Connecticut* industrial survey and is part of Rockville National Register Historic District which makes eligible for historic rehabilitation tax credits. Totals 27,000 sq. ft.

Contact: Maddy Ceruti, Berkshire Hathaway, 860-559-0978, maddyceruti@bhhsne.com

New England ReUse, a local reuse store in North Haven, must liquidate a 15,000-square-foot store. Reclaimed lumber of all types, doors, windows, furniture, all for an extremely reduced price! Contact Matt Kling at 203-230-2647 or chriskling@thereusepeople.org.

#### Deadline for the next issue is December 20, 2023

Historic Properties Exchange is published to advertise endangered properties in Connecticut by Preservation Connecticut, a statewide nonprofit organization located at 940 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut 06517. Real estate advertised in this publication is subject to the Federal Housing Act of 1968.

Neither advertisers nor Preservation Connecticut are responsible or liable for any misinformation, misprints, or typographical errors contained in Historic Properties Exchange. To list a property or learn about properties listed, contact Kristen Hopewood, at khopewood@preservationct.org, or call (203) 562-6312.

In keeping with Barnum's educational goals, the Barnum Museum's frieze depicts scenes and persons from U.S. history. Here, busts of Gen. Winfield Scott and President Grover Cleveland flank a scene labeled "Industrial Revolution (1870)."



numerous ways that his ideas about entertainment and education have contributed to the creation of the modern entertainment industry in America. Reserved seating, matinee shows, global celebrity marketing campaigns, venues that attract national and international audiences, mass market advertising, and corporate commercial

brands all originated with Barnum's 19<sup>th</sup>-century tours, staged performances, museum exhibits, penny press flyers, and circus extravaganzas. Barnum's philosophies of entertainment influenced his development of the museum and the circus as democratic types of popular culture available to all ages, ethnicities, and classes. Historians have also explored such darker aspects of his career as racism in his early exhibits or animal cruelty in his circus shows."

In 2010, a tornado caused extensive damage to the building and collections. The structural integrity of the east wall and the landmark dome was compromised. The museum remains closed as restoration continues but offers online activities.

The Barnum Museum is located at 820 Main Street in Bridgeport; for more information, visit barnum-museum.org.



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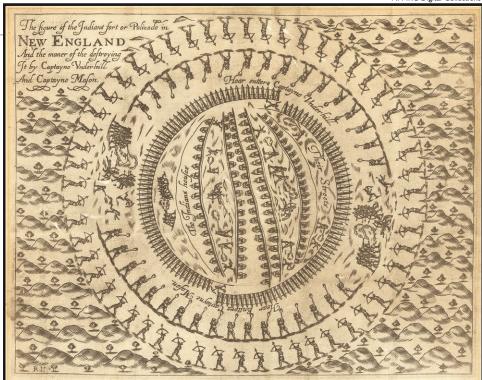
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#### Pequot hill, cont'd from page 24

attackers, led by Mason and Captain John Underhill, set the village aflame. In less than two hours, more than 400 Pequot men, women, and children died—about 200 of them burned alive in their wigwams. In the battle and counterattacks that followed that same day, the Pequot lost as many as half their warriors. (Archaeological investigations by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center beginning in 2007 as part of the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program have made it possible to reconstruct details of the battle.)

Other battles followed, but after losing so many warriors at Mystic the weakened Pequot were defeated. The Treaty of Hartford, signed in 1638, gave Pequot lands to English settlers and sold surviving prisoners into slavery; other survivors were absorbed into neighboring tribes. The treaty also outlawed the Pequot name and forbade surviving Pequot from ever living in their former territory. As far as they were able, the settlers had wiped the tribe out of existence.

"The Pequot War set the stage for the subsequent relationships the colonists



This depiction of the Mistick Fort appeared in Captain John Underhill's Newes from America, published in 1638.

had with native people," Kevin McBride, former research director at the Mashantucket Pequot museum, told The New York Times in 2008. "This was the first time native people experienced total warfare and cultural genocide. The English wanted to eliminate the Pequot as a force."

For centuries after the Pequot War, tribe after tribe followed the Pequot into exile and cultural erasure. The closing years of the 20th century saw something of a reversal of this trend. In a stunning turnaround, the Mashantucket Pequot tribe gained federal recognition—acknowledgement of its continuous if hidden survival as a people—and used casino-generated wealth to build an impressive museum and research program. But the spiny tree on Pequot Hill stands as a reminder of how much has been lost.

Pequot Hill is located in Mystic; the traffic island is at the intersection of Pequot Avenue and Clift Street. To learn more about the Pequot War, visit the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center, www.pequotmuseum.org. See also the website pequotwar.org.





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## SITES of CONSCIENCE

In 2023, each issue of Preservation Connecticut News will look at one of the historic places named as "Connecticut Sites of Conscience" by Connecticut Humanities—places that highlight the legacy, relevance, and persistence of issues which have influenced our state and our nation, and which continue to drive public discourse.

For more information, visit https://cthumanities.org/ct-soc/.

## Total war Pequot Hill, Mystic

n a little traffic island in a quiet neighborhood atop Pequot Hill, there grows a monkey puzzle tree (Araucaria araucana), an evergreen from South America noted for its tough, scale-like, sharp-edged leaves. The prickly foliage appropriately signals this place's difficult history.

The traffic island formerly held a statue honoring Captain John Mason, a commander of Connecticut Colony forces in the Pequot War, and the leader of an attack on the Mistick Fort, a palisaded Pequot village near this spot.

That battle turned into a massacre that was seen for many years as a significant triumph in the settlers' conquest of New England. The statue was removed in 1995, but memories remain.

The war broke out in 1636, following years of escalating tension between English settlers and the powerful Pequot tribe, largely over control of fur and wampum trade.

On May 26, 1637 (Old Style), settler forces from Connecticut and Massachusetts, along with Mohegan and other Indian allies, attacked the Mistick Fort. Quickly realizing that they could not win in hand-to-hand fighting, the