



Connecticut Preservation News

July/August 2010

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For the Merritt Parkway, the Biggest Threat Is Traffic

The National Trust for Historic Preservation included the Merritt Parkway on its annual list of the America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The announcement was made on May 19 at a press conference in Westport. As an indication of the Parkway's importance, David Brown, the National Trust's executive vice president, came from Washington for the event.

This designation marks a surprising turnaround from 1995, when the National Trust gave an Honor Award jointly to the Department of Transportation [DOT] and the Connecticut Trust for sensitive preservation of the parkway, a program of restoration and improve-

ments that is still underway. In 1995, DOT's commitment to preserving the Merritt represented a stunning change from just a few years earlier, when the department proposed widening it, which involved wiping out many of its famed bridges and almost all of the landscape that makes it a parkway. Since then, as no one can dispute, DOT has vastly improved both the Merritt's appearance and its safety, and it continues to do so.

"We know the Merritt Parkway needs a lot of tender loving care and we plan to keep it that way," said DOT Commissioner Joseph Marie at the press conference.

It hasn't all been smooth. There have been disagreements and concerns about just what preserving the Merritt means and how it should be done. Some of these discussions have revolved around roadway design, such as the proposed Route 7 interchange in Norwalk, which DOT is now re-designing after a lawsuit initiated by the Merritt Parkway Conservancy (see CPN May/June 2006). The landscape has been a second issue, particularly the clearing of overgrown and invasive

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C. W. Igen

From the Executive Director

This spring, the Connecticut Trust found out more about our members and launched a new website about historic districts and properties across the state.

In our survey of our members, we wanted to find out what interested you in historic preservation and what issues are of concern to you. We are happy to report that we had an over 10% response.

What did we learn? We learned that many of you define your interest in historic preservation as a result of owning an older house and being actively involved in its' restoration. A slightly lower number indicated that you are active players in local, regional and/or state-wide preservation organizations. Interestingly, few of you put heritage tourism as a top interest and even fewer identified yourselves as just an observer.

Economic vitality of downtowns and urban centers, communities planning for preservation, preservation of cultural landscapes and buildings were all almost equally important to many of you.

And, not surprisingly, an overwhelming majority of you are above all interested in

energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, with agriculture and land conservation coming in second and economic development and job creation third.

To see the results of the survey in full, please visit www.cttrust.org. There are a number of interesting comments also.

While you're online, you might want to check the Trust's newest website, www.historicdistrictsct.org. Specifically developed for Connecticut's local historic district commissioners and certified local government officials, this new site is the home of the electronic version of the recently revised and updated, *Handbook for Connecticut Historic District and Historic Properties Commissions*.

Though the handbook was created for historic district/properties commissions and certified local government officials, it can also be a valuable resource for owners of historic houses and others interested in historic designations and building and landscape preservation.

In addition to the handbook, www.historicdistrictsct.org provides a resource called the "Commissioner Discussion

Forum." The Forum will serve as a means for commissioners and certified local government officials to share ideas. Forum topics may include posts of important decisions, information about ongoing issues, and requests for peer advice. It will also act as a virtual training center in which challenges, best-practice methods, problems with applications for certificates of appropriateness and successful experiences can be shared with and critiqued by other users.

In the website's third section, "Ask a Question," we invite members of the public to submit inquiries about historic designations and related matters, for which answers will be supplied by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation in association with the State Historic Preservation Office at the Commission on Culture and Tourism.

The Connecticut Historic District and Historic Property Handbook received support from the Commission on Culture & Tourism with funds from the Community Investment Act of the State of Connecticut. 🌱

—Helen Higgins

Upcoming Meetings of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

August 4, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.
September 1, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

All meetings take place at the
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Connecticut Commission
on Culture & Tourism

Bruce Fraser: Champion of History

Bruce Fraser, longtime Executive Director of the Connecticut Humanities Council (CHC), died June 13, having been diagnosed with cancer a little less than a year ago. In April, the Connecticut Trust presented Fraser with the Janet Jainschigg Award in recognition of his leadership in making our understanding of and appreciation for Connecticut's history central to our lives.

As Executive Director of the Connecticut Humanities Council, Fraser made engaging Connecticut citizens with their state's history his central mission. His brief and accessible state history *The Land of Steady Habits*, which 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 received four regional Emmys. Most ambitiously, Fraser headed up the Encyclopedia of Connecticut History Online, a collaboration among hundreds of scholars that, once live, will be the most important contribution to our understanding of Connecticut in decades. It demonstrates that Bruce could move his history commitment into the modern, technological age seamlessly.

All along, Bruce Fraser 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. Realizing that it's impossible to cultivate the heritage

courtesy of the Connecticut Humanities Council



Bruce Fraser

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 was an effective advocate for investment in and appreciation of Connecticut's history.

Helen Higgins, Trust executive director, notes, "There is not one issue or project that Bruce espoused that he didn't give his whole self to. His devotion to and fight for Connecticut's history and heritage transformed the state's once sleepy heritage community into a vibrant industry. We are all deeply indebted to him for his transformative leadership and guidance."

Marcia Howard, chairman of the Humanities Council, wrote, "Bruce never let his illness detract from his commitment to preserve and transmit the history, values and heritage of our great state. Through his work, he enriched the lives of Connecticut's citizens by giving them countless opportunities to know and appreciate their history. He leaves a legacy of excellence and passion for the humanities, a legacy of courage and commitment."

What Bruce Fraser achieved at the Humanities Council and for all of us involved with Connecticut's cultural heritage will live on, as will our fond memories of him. 🌻

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Merritt Parkway, cont'd from page 1

plants and the removal of trees which the department considered unsafe. Third is the maintenance and restoration of the bridges after 70 years' exposure to the elements (see CPN, November/December 2009).

Important as these matters are, the Most Endangered listing points to a larger issue, one that in the long run will have a far greater impact on the Merritt. The National Trust's explanation for the listing points this out: "Fairfield County, where the Merritt is located, is the most populous county in Connecticut, and its growth is straining the state's infrastructure. To accommodate increased traffic on the parkway, ConnDOT has moved to solve the problem through road realignment, bridge replacement and interchange redesign—with the result that the parkway's unique character is being sacrificed."

In other words: the threat to the Merritt is based on DOT's efforts to cope with growth through road improvements. It's important to note that this growth isn't primarily population growth, but rather traffic growth. Since 1990 the number of people living in Fairfield County has increased by about nine percent, but traffic levels on the Merritt are up by about 35 percent. Much of this is due to a shift in population away from the older coastline areas to newly-developed inland areas. Another factor is the sprawling nature of new development, which results in more and longer car trips.

The ever-increasing numbers of cars endanger the Merritt. More traffic means more accidents and, consequently, more pressure for safety improvements that always seem to come at the cost of historic and scenic character. More traffic also brings more pressure to increase capacity. Since 1991, DOT's policy has been that the Merritt will not be widened, but that policy, however firmly entrenched in the hearts of the public and DOT, has no legal, binding status. It could be overturned at any time.

DOT has recognized the threat of growth for a long time—at least as far back as the Merritt Parkway Guidelines, basic principles published in 1994 to guide future work on the parkway. The guidelines say "the future of the Merritt Parkway will be determined as much by the incremental decisions of the towns through which it passes as by the Department of

C. Wigren



Crumbling concrete on the North Avenue bridge, Westport

Transportation and the rest of the state."

DOT isn't completely at the mercy of towns and developers. In the past its concentration on roadbuilding funneled traffic onto the Merritt, but Commissioner Marie has strengthened the department's commitment to an integrated, multi-modal transportation system for the state.

However, DOT on its own cannot remove the threat to the Merritt, because the real problem facing the parkway isn't a roadbuilding problem, it's a planning problem. Nor does it affect only the Merritt. The threat to the parkway is merely a single, highly visible consequence of the automobile-centric sprawl that is also draining life from Fairfield County's older cities and towns and paving over the countryside.

The solution for the Merritt and the rest of Fairfield County must be a planning solution, a wide-ranging, coordinated effort to address the broader issues that affect historic places, including the Merritt. We need to look again at ways of encouraging development centered on public transportation or transit-friendly suburban neighborhoods like those built between the Civil War and World War II. There have been some notable successes recently, including new development in downtown Bridgeport or, more broadly, the growth of the Main Street program, but those successes have been limited.

One thing that gives new urgency to this effort is environmental sustainability, which has emerged as a major concern touching almost every aspect of modern life, including historic preservation. Sustainability plays an important role in addressing the threats to the Merritt because the preservation-friendly planning that is needed is in fact sustainable. It aims to conserve natural resources by reusing existing infrastructure, buildings and

neighborhoods (many of them historic) rather than building new ones.

Preserving a major road as a means to achieving sustainability may seem paradoxical, to say the least. Environmental activists typically concentrate on getting people out of cars. But Americans are not prepared to abandon automobiles as a major

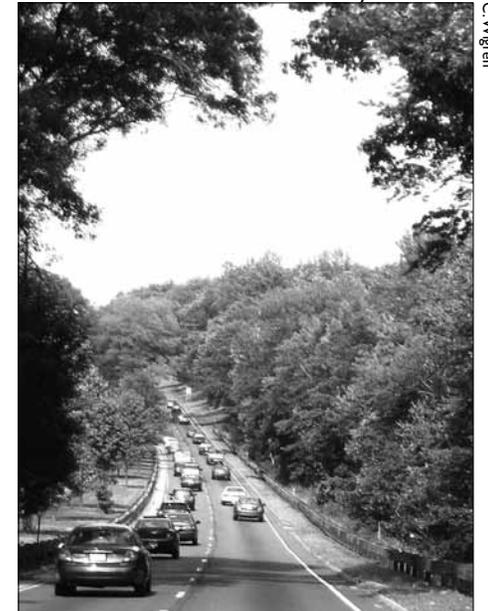
element of our transportation system. The Merritt is important precisely as a model for taming the automobile, by incorporating a major roadway into a band of greenery that blends it into the landscape, that filters exhaust fumes, and that makes driving a pleasure rather than just a chore—"to enjoy as we go," as Schuyler Merritt said.

The Merritt Parkway is not just a treasured piece of Connecticut's past. It's a vital part of our present and it points the way to a future that could be more humane and more responsible. Seeing that it does so is not a job for the Department of Transportation alone. Other state agencies, town governments, private developers, even individual drivers, all must play a part. 🌿

As we go to press, Joseph Marie has announced his resignation as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

—Christopher Wigren

Restored section of the Merritt Parkway, in Stratford



C. Wigren

State Launches Resident Curator Program

Connecticut DEP, Division of State Parks and Public Outreach

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has announced a new way to care for some of its historic but underused properties. The department owns a number of historic buildings in state parks or forests for which it does not have a use. In addition to DEP, municipalities, nonprofit land trusts, and water companies all fall into this category. Because the buildings have no direct connection to the owners' mission, they are low on the list of funding priorities. The issue became most urgent in 2003, when the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority offered seventeen historic buildings for moving from Authority owned land (see CPN, November/December 2003). To date, only one small outbuilding has been successfully moved.

For several years, the Connecticut Trust has urged owners of open space land to think creatively about ways of preserving historic buildings on those lands. In 2006 the Trust included these buildings in its annual list of The Most Important Threatened Historic Places in Connecticut. In 2008 the Trust awarded an Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant (HPTAG) to the Derby Historical Society for a capital needs assessment of the Smith-Curtiss house, an early 18th-century house in Osbornedale State Park in Derby. More recently, the Trust awarded another HPTAG to the Friends of State Parks for needs assessments of houses being considered for the program.

The new Connecticut program, inspired by ones in Massachusetts and Maryland,



The Worthen house, in Granby, will be one of the first state properties offered for resident curatorships.

will allow individuals, organizations or businesses to lease the houses for 20 to 25 years, but instead of paying rent they must restore and maintain the buildings. Properties may be used for either for-profit or non-profit undertakings or a combination of both, but curators must open the properties to the public at least twice per year. Curators will be chosen based on the quality of their proposals. The leases, for 20 to 25 years, cannot be transferred, and all restoration work must adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

The first two properties to be offered will be the Smith-Curtiss house and the Worthen house, built in about 1783, in Enders State Forest, Granby. Information on the houses and application materials will be available sometime after July 31. The department plans to offer an additional two to four houses per year. 🌻

For more information, visit www.ct.gov/depr/residentcurator or call Nicole Chalfant Shaw, Resident Curator Program Manager, (860) 424-3179.



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Energy Saving Features of Historic Buildings

“People often tend to think that historic buildings are inherently energy inefficient,” writes Walter Sedovic, an architect based in Irvington, New York, who specializes in historic preservation and sustainability. “The opposite, though, is more likely to be true: that many historic buildings are inherently very energy efficient. One comes to recognize this when intrinsic properties—such as thermal mass, effective daylighting and convective cooling—are better understood. Current energy modeling programs don’t tend to weight these elements appropriately, if they are considered at all.”

Here are some of the ways historic buildings were designed to make their inhabitants more comfortable. One of the first steps in making any old building more energy efficient should be to understand and take advantage of these traditional energy-saving features.

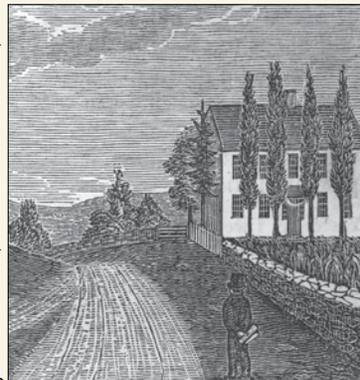
Keeping warm

- Orientation to the sun
- Windbreaks
- Thick walls for insulation
- Insulation within walls (plant materials or brick nogging)
- Center chimney to radiate heat
- Small windows
- Low ceilings
- Rooms that can be shut off to keep the heat in
- Rooms that can be shut off and not heated
- Curtains or shutters to block drafts at windows and doors

Daylighting

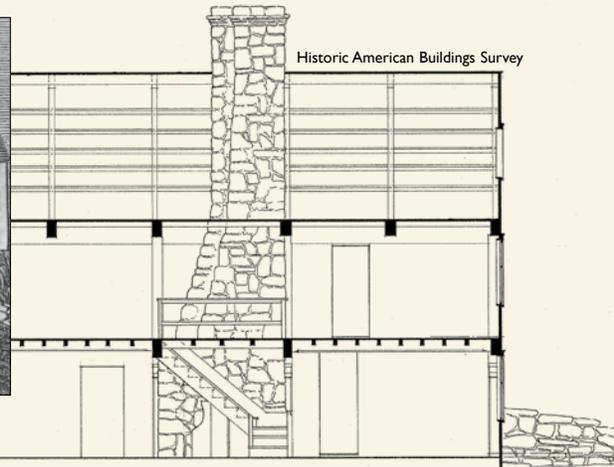
- Orientation to the sun
- Large windows and bay windows
- Transoms or sidelights
- Narrow floor plans

John Warner Barber, Connecticut Historical Collections, 1838.



Orientation to the sun, Ridgefield

C. Wigren



Historic American Buildings Survey

Center chimney, Guilford



Low ceiling, room that can be shut off, Middletown

Small windows, Wethersfield

C. Wigren



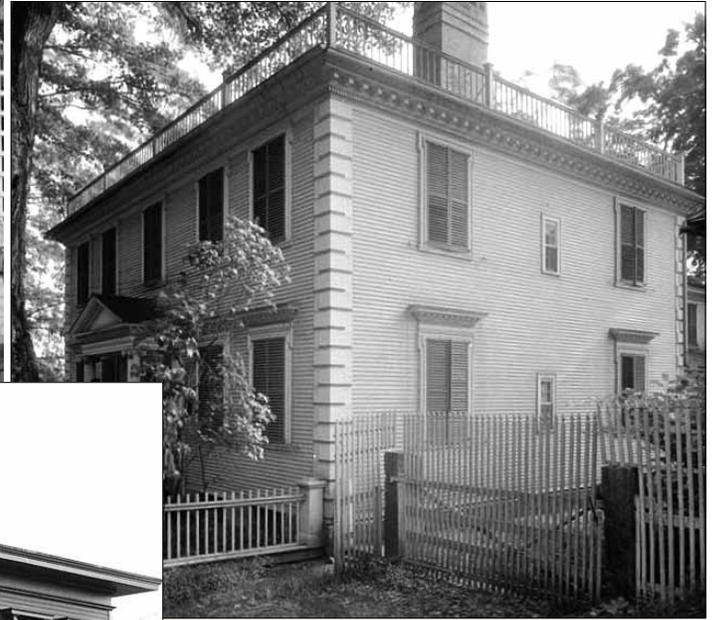
Transom and sidelights, Riverton

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Blinds,
East Haddam



Sleeping porch,
Old Black Point



N. Harkrader

Monitor,
Guilford

Keeping cool

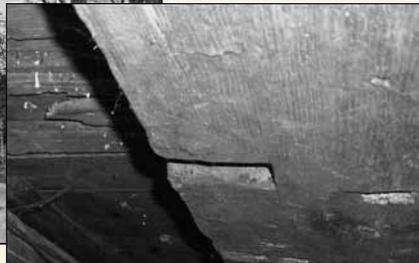
- Thick walls for insulation
- Shade trees
- Porches, which shade the house and provide outdoor living space
- Sleeping porches
- Blinds and shutters
- Monitors or towers (warm air will rise and escape, creating a draft)
- Double-hung sash (open at both top and bottom to create a draft)
- Rooms with cross ventilation
- Center halls for cross ventilation
- Operable transoms for ventilation
- High ceilings
- Summer kitchens or basement kitchens

location near public transportation and services,
Stony Creek

Courtesy of John Herzan



C. Wigren



Reused summer
beam, Westport

Sustainable materials

- Low-impact materials, such as wood, stone, or brick
- Local materials
- Repairable materials
- Reused materials
- Remodeling rather replacing
- Location near public transportation and services

Repairable
materials:
windows



T. Levine

Fairfield. Local activists have gotten approval to move the Sturges Cottage to town-owned land and reuse it as offices.

The Gothic Revival cottage was built in the 1840s as a gardener's cottage for the Jonathan Sturges house, a National Historic Landmark. As the original property was subdivided over the years, the cottage ended up on a parcel where Carolton Chronic Convalescent Hospital was built. Six years ago Carmen Tortora Jr., the hospital's owner, announced plans to demolish the cottage to make room for expansion. However, he has been willing to wait while members of the community worked out a way to save the building.

On June 16 the Fairfield Parks and Recreation Commission voted to allow the cottage to be moved to a corner of the Eunice Postol Recreation Center, where it will be rehabbed as offices for the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce.

Local activists, led by Melanie Marks, still must raise the money for the move and rehabilitation. Tortora has pledged \$20,000, if the town will match it.

"Tortora has been so patient in letting all of the various groups over the



The Sturges Cottage in Fairfield will get a new location and a new use.

six years try and save it and we applaud him," says Marks. "We still have many more town bodies to go before: Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, RTM and then Planning and Zoning but at least we have the Chamber of Commerce as a tenant and our first selectman behind us." 🌿

Waterford. After a long and unnecessary delay it appears that Mark S. Steiner is back on track to redevelop the Seaside Hospital site overlooking Long Island Sound. The former tuberculosis hospital, opened in 1934, featured buildings designed by the prominent architect Cass Gilbert and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The state closed the facility in the mid-1990s and put it up for sale. After the town of Watertown decided not to buy the 32-acre property, Steiner made a successful

bid to develop it. He planned to convert the buildings to condominiums for adults over age 55 and promised permanent public access to the beach.

But in 2007 Governor M. Jodi Rell cancelled the sale, saying that the public should retain access to the entire waterfront property. While the governor's plan was well intentioned, it was also short sighted. Without any concrete plan or funding the hospital sat empty and continued to deteriorate. One small outbuilding caught fire, highlighting the potential perils that threatened the site.

With the recession and the need for revenue the state put Seaside back up for sale last fall. Fortunately, Steiner remained interested. Since he has already done much of the preparatory work, there is hope that he will actually be able to complete his development. 🌿

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**For the Purist
Center Chimney House Plans**

Hartford. An effort to reuse an historic school came to naught this spring when the city decided that the building was unsafe.

For several years the city had worked on plans to construct a new public safety complex within the school's outer walls of the Second North District School, a contributing structure in Hartford's Downtown North National Register district.

According to the district nomination, the school was "probably the most outstanding design" in the district, "a fine example of [architect] Melvin H. Hapgood's Aesthetic Movement training, sense of symmetrical design, and interest in unusual surfaces." Moreover, the building occupied a prominent spot at the gateway to the city's North End. Hopes were that the new use would spark revitalization of the long-neglected neighborhood.

By last fall, the roof and interior load-bearing walls had been removed to make way for new construction. But then engineers began to worry about the soundness of the remaining walls. After a section of the tower collapsed in November, they halted work, and in February received permission from the city Preservation Commission to demolish the tower as well as other exterior walls as necessary.

The tower was taken down on March 15, and at that point the city decided that the remaining walls were unsafe as well, and that the entire building would have to be razed. The city reported back to the Commission on April 21, and members reacted angrily but stopped short of demanding a second engineering opinion.

At question was whether the walls were adequately braced after the roof and interior walls were removed. According to minutes of the Preservation Commission meeting, Doug Roberts of JCJ Architecture, architects for the new complex, reported that "five months of weathering from the initial collapse had weakened the clay and therefore weakened the base of those walls. In addition, he stated that during demolition of the clock tower it was seen that the lime based mortar in the masonry walls disintegrated, which led the team to feel that it was not worth pursuing the preservation of the remaining walls."

The current plan is to continue with the same design, but with a replica of the historic façade instead of the real thing. However, as Tyler Smith, an architect who

D. Ransom



The Second North District School, Hartford, seen in 2004. The building's exposed walls proved unsafe after the roof was removed last year and they had to be taken down rather than reused.

lives and works in Hartford, observed at the Preservation Commission meeting, this project should be a learning experience, so that next time an historic building begins to deteriorate, a better plan could be implemented for its preservation. 🌱

For more information: Minutes of the Hartford Preservation Commission meeting, April 21, 2010: http://www.hartford.gov/development/planning/comm_docs/Historic/Minutes%202010/4-21-10%20HPC_Minutes.pdf

Hartford. On April 30, Connecticut Congressman John B. Larson and Senators Christopher Dodd and Joe Lieberman announced that they had introduced legislation to designate Coltsville as a National Park.

The bill, H.R. 5131, "The Coltsville National Historical Park Act," authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Historical Park but only after

certain conditions are met. Those conditions include the donation of at least 10,000 square feet in the East Armory to be used for a Colt museum and the donation of the land within the proposed Park boundaries. The bill also gives the Secretary authority to enter into written cooperative agreements with the various land owners living in Coltsville as well as with various museums in order to acquire different artifacts for display in the Colt museum.

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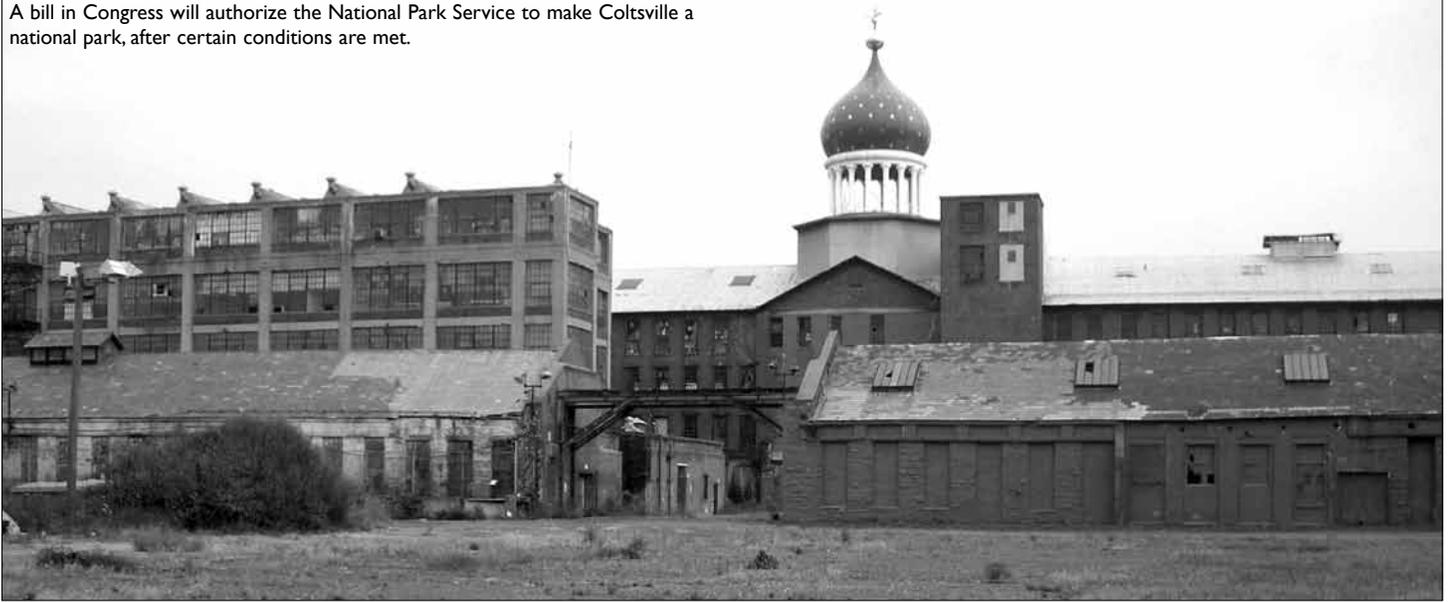
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A bill in Congress will authorize the National Park Service to make Coltsville a national park, after certain conditions are met.



Coltsville cont'd from page 9

A hearing was held on June 10 by the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands. Testifying in support of the bill, Larson said, "Establishing Coltsville as a National Historical Park will not only preserve our unique history for future generations, but it will also boost the local economy by creating jobs and attracting more cultural tourism to the region. According to the United Arts, a Greater Hartford Arts Council Campaign, over 5 million people visit the cultural attractions in Greater Hartford each year, supporting 7,400 full-time jobs and generating an annual economic impact of \$244 million. Adding Coltsville National Historical Park to the list of attractions would obviously have a great positive impact on the region."

Tom Condon, editorial page editor of *The Hartford Courant*, pointed out: "For the past decade, the property has moved haltingly toward a major revival. The National Park designation would not by itself be the big bang, the silver bullet, that saves Hartford. But the park would stir the drink, be a major asset in itself and the catalyst that makes other things easier to accomplish."

If the bill passes, substantial hurdles will remain. The first is control of the site. Lance Robbins, the developer, is still working on agreements with the 15 entities involved in the project that will allow him to donate part of the property to the Park Service. However, Robbins feels he is close to an agreement.

The second hurdle is financial. Dodd told the House subcommittee, "I am aware—we all are—of the tremendous budgetary constraints and pressures the National Park Service faces and that the Administration may be reluctant to designate new parks while we are still working to reduce the maintenance backlog at existing facilities. However, I believe, Mr. Chairman, that we should not let these obstacles stand in the way of a project that enjoys bipartisan support from public as well as private citizens." 🌸

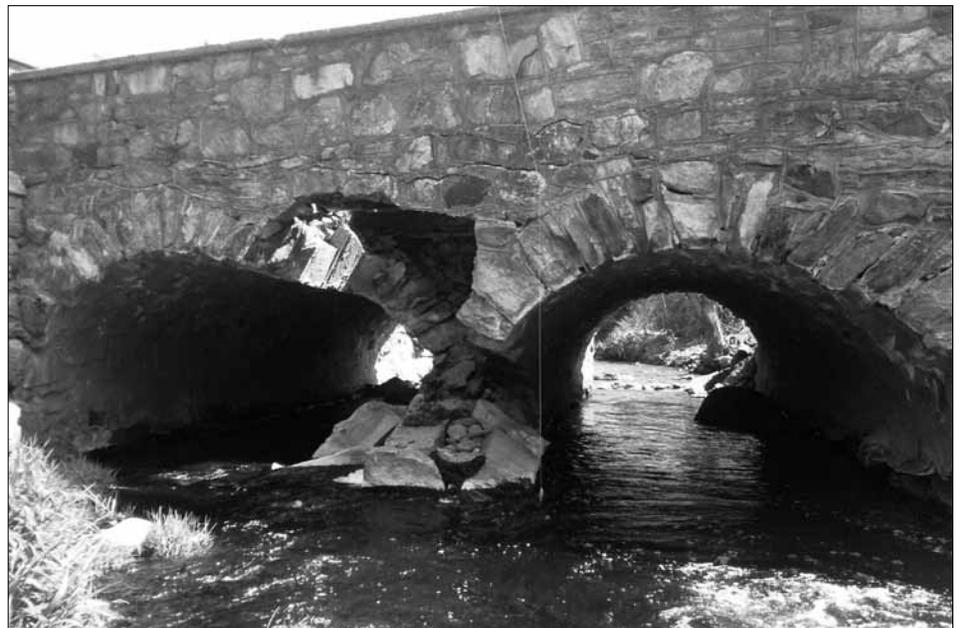
For more information:
H.R. 5131, *Coltsville National Historical Park Act*: http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h5131ih.txt.pdf

North Stonington and Bridgeport. The flooding that ravaged eastern Connecticut and Rhode Island at the end of March caused damage to a number of historic properties. The hardest-hit area was North Stonington

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Flood damage at the Main Street bridge in North Stonington. Stones have continued to fall out of the bridge since this photograph was taken.

D. Forrest



Lead Paint: An Update

After CPN reported on new regulations from the United States Environmental Protection Agency that govern work on houses built before 1978 (see CPN, May/June 2010), Connecticut Trust staff members met in May with a small group of environmental consultants and restoration contractors to learn more.

From consultants who run training programs for contractors seeking lead certification, we learned that there are two kinds of certification: firm and individual. As of April 22 of this year, all contracting firms must be certified and must also have at least one employee with individual certification. As CPN went to press, we learned that EPA had extended the time for firms and workers to obtain certification. However, the agency says it will continue to enforce the work practice requirements.

The consultants stressed just how little lead it takes to poison someone. Depending on the concentration, less than a sugar packet's worth of lead dust can be hazardous. While adults and older children can expect to recover from lead poisoning, younger children can suffer permanent brain damage from lead exposure.

Painting over lead-based paint with non-lead paint won't remove the risk, since some of the lead eventually will move into the non-lead paint. It will also spread into the wood underneath, so that even removing all the paint doesn't completely remove the lead; the wood will have to be treated as well.

One of the most important things we learned was that **the new regulations do**

NOT require lead abatement—that is, complete removal of lead. Instead, they are aimed at minimizing the release of lead-contaminated dust during renovation, repairs, or repainting. The regulations cover setup, work methods, and cleanup.

Setup. The work area must be contained so that dust and debris do not escape. Warning signs must be put up and plastic or other impermeable material and tape must be used as appropriate to cover the floors and any furniture that cannot be moved and to seal off doors and heating and cooling vents. These precautions help prevent dust or debris from getting outside the work area.

Work methods. Contractors should avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust. There is no way to eliminate dust completely, but some renovation methods produce less dust than others. Work methods that minimize dust generation, include using water to mist areas before sanding or scraping; scoring paint before separating components; and prying and pulling apart components instead of breaking them. Methods that generate large amounts of dust, such as open-flame burning; sanding, grinding or blasting without a shroud and HEPA vacuum attachment; and using heat guns at temperatures over 1,100 degrees, should be avoided.

Cleanup. The work area should be cleaned daily to contain lead dust as much as possible. When all the work is done, the area must be cleaned using special cleaning methods before taking down any plastic that isolates the work area from the rest

of the home. The special cleaning methods should include using a HEPA vacuum to clean up dust and debris on all surfaces, followed by wet wiping and wet mopping with plenty of rinse water. When the final cleaning is done, there should be no dust, paint chips, or debris in the work area.

The contractors worried that unscrupulous firms will ignore the regulations, offer low bids, and drive the firms that do follow the rules out of business. The EPA hopes that they can prevent this through strict enforcement, including an anonymous tip line, stiff fines, and even jail sentences for offenders.

Another fear was that lenders might insist on lead testing, or even abatement, as a condition for making loans, making it vastly more difficult to buy, sell, or renovate historic buildings. In the long run, this could make repairs so burdensome that older buildings become unsafe, not because they contain lead, but due to neglect.

There also remain concerns that the new regulations lack a sense of balance. While

continued on page 14



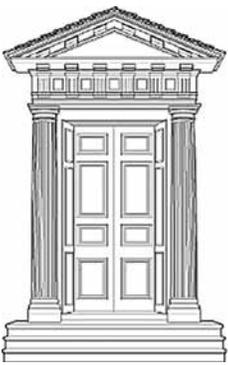
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Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants

In June, the Connecticut Trust awarded a total of \$95,950 in Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants. The grants will make possible a total initial investment of \$207,375 in these historic sites.

The grants are part of a comprehensive historic preservation technical assistance program of the Trust, in collaboration with and with generous funding from the Connecticut General Assembly, the Connecticut Humanities Council, and the Commission on Culture and Tourism, through the Community Investment Act. The grants are intended to encourage and support community efforts in planning for the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic buildings and places.

In the following list, "NR" means that a building is listed on the National Register, either individually or as part of a district; "LHD" means that it is in a local historic district.



Colebrook Historical Society

Colebrook, Colebrook Historical Society: \$3,500 for a restoration plan for the Rock District School (1779)

East Haven, First Congregational Church: \$20,000 for an architectural conditions survey of the church (1774; NR)

East Lyme, East Lyme Historical Society: \$3,900 for a structural assessment of the Thomas Lee house (c.1660; NR)

Town of Farmington: \$5,000 for a conditions assessment and preservation plan of the Gridley-Parsons-Staples house (c.1760; NR)

Hamden, Edgerton Park Conservancy: \$5,000 for an engineering study for erosion control at the park (1906; NR)

New Haven, Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven: \$4,000 for homeowner workshops

New London, New London Ledge Lighthouse Foundation: \$14,000 for architectural and engineering studies of the Ledge Lighthouse (1909; NR)

Town of Redding and the Redding Preservation Society: \$4,700 for a technical needs assessment of the Lonetown Farm Museum (c.1790; NR)

Southbury, Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition: \$5,000 to provide public awareness of the watershed's historic industrial sites

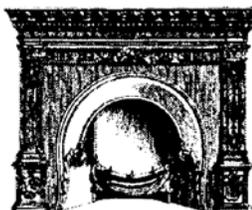
Town of Westport: \$6,900 for a cultural landscape preservation plan for the West Parish Meeting House historic property and State Archaeological Preserve

Town of Woodbury: \$11,950 for a structural engineering analysis of the Old Town Hall (1846; NR, LHD)

Woodstock, Woodstock Academy: \$12,000 for an analysis of environmental and energy efficiency upgrades to the Academy building (1873; NR, LHD)

For more information on the Connecticut Trust's Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grants, visit <http://cttrust.org/index.cgi/119>. 🌿

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Barn Grants

The Connecticut Trust awarded a total of \$55,000 in Barns Grants to sixteen non-profit organizations, municipalities, and private citizens from across the state in May. The purpose of the grant is to support efforts to preserve the iconic historic barns of Connecticut.

Barns Grants are funded by the Connecticut General Assembly. This year, \$55,000 in grants will make possible \$556,270 in investment.

In the following list, "NR" means that a building is listed on the National Register, either individually or as part of a district; "LHD" means that it is in a local historic district.

Berlin, E. William Cink: \$3,480 for stabilization of the Cink barn (mid-19th century; NR, LHD)

Cheshire, McKey Family Trust: \$1,500 for conditions assessment of the Brooks Farm barn (19th century; LHD)

Durham, Dom Delvecchio: \$5,000 for stabilization of the Camozzi barn (mid-19th century)

East Windsor, Barbara Smigiel: \$3,500 for stabilization of the Thompson barn (c.1865; NR)

Tobacco shed, Glastonbury



Glastonbury Historical Society

Glastonbury, Historical Society of Glastonbury: \$5,000 for tobacco shed reconstruction (c.1890)

Guilford, Helen P. Leslie Estate: \$6,125 for conditions assessment and stabilization of the Parmelee barn (1886; NR)

Higginum, Clark Gardner: \$1,500 for conditions assessment of the Gardner barn (c.1841)

New Milford, Kathleen Dugan: \$4,000 for stabilization of the Dugan barn (c.1888)

Portland, John and Judy Harper: \$5,000 for stabilization of the Harper barn (c.1865)

Putnam, Elizabeth Hayden: \$1,023 for conditions assessment of the Burrill-Logee barn (19th century)

Scotland, James P. Naumec: \$1,500 for conditions assessment of the Chapman Farm barn (early 19th century)

South Glastonbury, Gary Straker: \$900 for conditions assessment of the Straker tobacco shed (late 19th century)

South Kent, William Arnold: \$4,000 for stabilization of the Jennings Farm barn (c.1850)

Vernon, Nancy Strong: \$5,000 for stabilization of the Strong Homestead barn (c.1920)

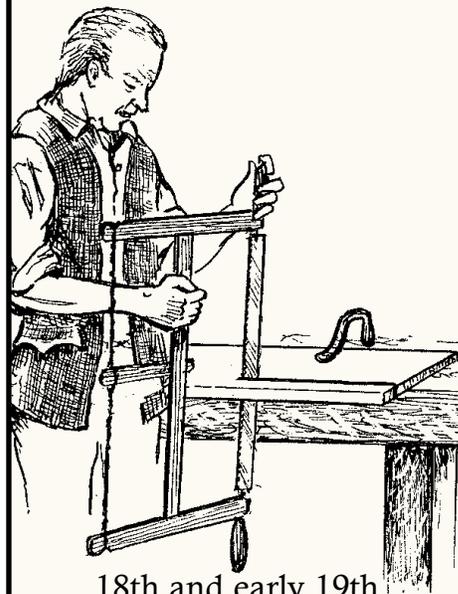
Town of Waterford: \$2,400 for a conditions assessment and feasibility study for the Secchiaroli barn (c.1923)

Wilton, Wilton Congregational Church: \$5,000 for stabilization of the Comstock barns (mid-19th century)

For more information on the Trust's barn grants, visit <http://cttrust.org/index.cgi/1084>.

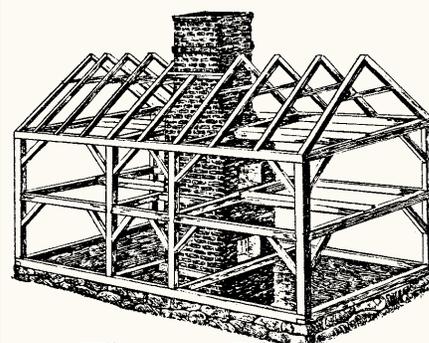


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Lead Paint Update cont'd from page 11

lead poisoning is serious, it's foolish to believe that we can completely remove all risk. (If that were the aim, why not make abatement mandatory?) It's similar to traffic safety: we could save lots of lives by setting a universal speed limit of 15 miles per hour, but society has decided to balance safety with speed.

In the end, the hope is that the regulations will be enforced consistently and fairly, with an eye to balancing other needs. As one of the contractors put it, "We'll have to see how this whole lead thing plays out. It reminds me a bit of the asbestos scare, the radon scare, the anthrax scare, and going back a bit, the nuclear scare." In other words, we'll find a way to live with it. No one doubts that reducing the chances of lead poisoning is an important goal. 🌱

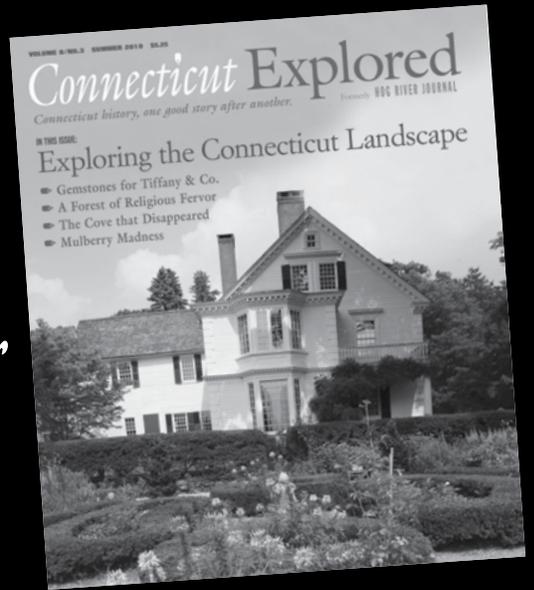
For copies of the regulations:
www.epa.gov/lead.

EPA brochure, "Renovate Right:"
<http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovaterightbrochure.pdf>.

EPA extension of certification deadline:
http://www.dealer.org/files/EPA_Delay_Announcement_6_18_10.pdf

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village, a National Register district, where the 19th-century stone-arched bridge that carried Main Street over the Shunock River was seriously undermined by the waters and its middle arch gave way.

Fallen stones from the bridge were washed downstream, where they slammed against supports of the Holmes Block, a store built about 1820 and expanded in the 1840s. On March 31st the 1840s wing collapsed into the stream. The older section remains, but its foundation was undermined and had to be repaired.

The bridge continued to deteriorate, and it had to be removed, due to fears that further collapse—highly likely, considering the degree of damage—would block the river and cause additional flooding upstream that would harm other historic properties.

The flooding also caused lesser damage to other historic resources in North Stonington, including a blacksmith shop

and a second, smaller, bridge.

Flood relief efforts are overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Since federal funding is involved, any actions that affect historic sites must be reviewed for their impact on those sites. Dan Forrest, the staff archaeologist for the State Historic Preservation Office, has been conducting those reviews, in coordination with FEMA.

“It’s generally the same Section 106 process as other federal projects that affect historic sites,” he said. “Only the time frame is much shorter, since this is an emergency, and decisions often need to be made quickly.”

The SHPO supported the decision to remove the Main Street bridge, stressing the need to protect other historic resources. The office is also participating with FEMA and the town in planning a replacement that is appropriate for the district’s historic character.

FEMA representatives came to Connecticut again after powerful storms and a tornado hit Bridgeport on June 24. Several buildings were partially collapsed in the East Bridgeport and East Main Street National Register districts. In addition, the winds hit the Barnum Museum, also on the National Register.

“We have had some significant damage to the building as well as the collection,” said museum director Kathleen Maher. “Two windows blew out, allowing all the storm water and wind to howl through the first floor exhibition areas. Additionally, water at the northwest corner of the building was able to seep through the first floor into the basement storage area wetting the archival collection of Barnum books.”

As CPN goes to press, cleanup and evaluation of the damage are proceeding.



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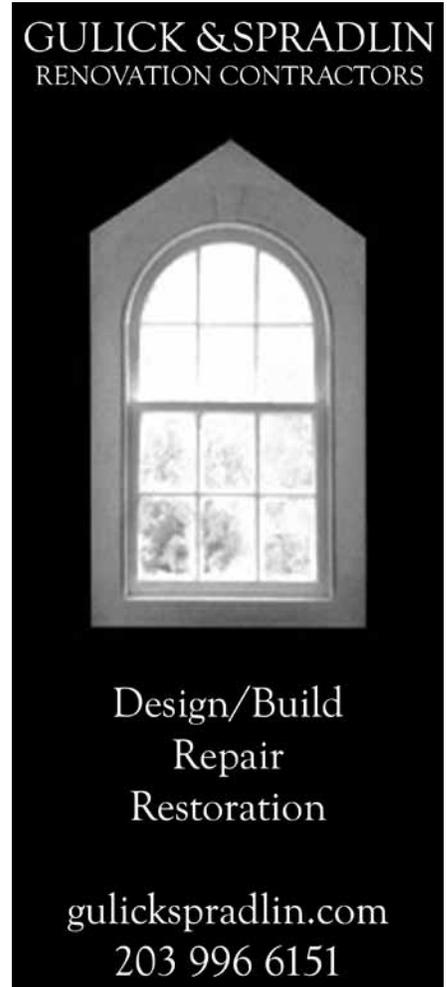


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The Parkway from the Outside

When we talk about the Merritt Parkway, we usually think in terms of the experience of being on it—the roadways, the traffic, the landscape, and the bridges that cross it. But the Parkway also exists as a presence within the towns it passes through. From that vantage point, we don't travel along the Merritt; we cross it. Instead of a corridor, we experience it as a brief interruption along a town road, a hard-edged Art Deco bridge framing a view of a barn, a flash of traffic between the houses, a stone wall and a splash of green in the midst of a commercial strip, a quickly-spotted sculptural detail.

Here are some views of the Parkway from the outside, taken from drawings and photos made by the Historic American Engineering Record in 1992. To view the entire collection, visit <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/> and type "Merritt Parkway" into the search line. 🌿

1. Stratford, Route 110 overpass
2. Fairfield, Black Rock Turnpike overpass
3. Norwalk, New Canaan Avenue overpass
4. Fairfield, Cross Highway overpass
5. Fairfield, Cross Highway overpass
6. Westport, Easton Road overpass
7. Norwalk, Main Avenue overpass

CONNECTICUT *Snapshots*

