

From Cottage to Castle:



A House Tour of Neptune Park

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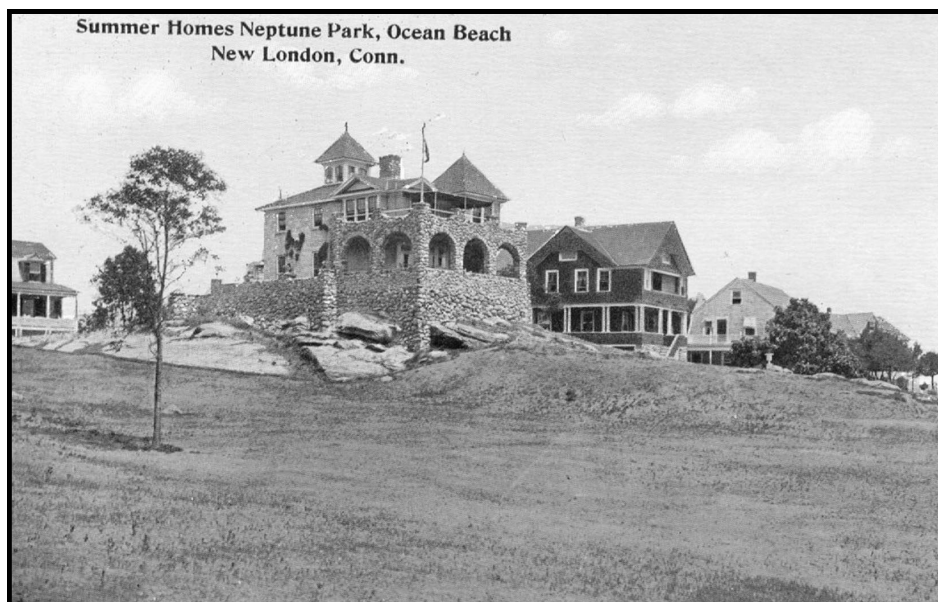


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Welcome to New London Landmarks'
2017 Walking Tour
*From Cottage to Castle:
A House Tour of Neptune Park*



The history of New London's Neptune Park has included merchants, mill owners, two governors, top military men, theatrical people, two cigar-store owners, at least one spy, a Chinese prince, and many stories — that of a rags-to-riches Irish orphan who became governor, a prominent local eye doctor accused of being a quack, and a Bohemian circle of writers and feminists, all of whom found respite by the sea in New London.

The Castle at 11 Elliott Avenue was built long before the cottages that now surround it. It was constructed in 1859 of stone quarried from the site where it was built, set atop a granite outcropping. In the next century, a community of nearby cottages sprang up, primarily inhabited by people of means from Norwich, Hartford and New London.

The Castle is on the high point of a fat, mitten-shaped peninsula located between Alewife Cove and Jordan Cove to the west and New London Harbor Light and the Thames River to the east. In colonial times, this peninsula was a place of dispersed farmsteads belonging to New London's unconventional outliers—the Rogers family and their circle of radical Protestants, among others. The area would remain, to some extent, the domain of the unorthodox into the twentieth century.

In colonial times, the area was valuable as fishing grounds and pasturage, with meadows of wild salt hay, highly desirable to farmers—that is, nearly everyone in New London. The Neck, as it was called, was held in common until 1651, when it was divided by lottery into plowing, mowing, and wood lots. Francis M. Caulkins, in her book *History of New London, Connecticut, from the First Survey of the Coast in 1612 to 1860*, speculates that the area near Long Rock (at today's Neptune Park Beach) was surveyed by Robert Hempstead, the grandfather of the famous diarist, Joshua Hempstead (1678-1758). Joshua spent a great deal of time surveying property on the Neck for New Londoners who wanted to sell, consolidate, or trade their outlying lots.



Point and Rocks, New London, CT



White Beach, New London CT (New London Harbor Light in Background)

Joshua called today's Ocean Beach "White Beach," a name that endured until the development of Ocean Beach as a cottage colony in the late-nineteenth century. The beach by Neptune Park was considered part of White Beach to Long Rock, an outcropping that cuts the beach perpendicularly and was used as a kind of landing place in times past.

On November 5, 1754, Joshua wrote in his diary about returning from one of his many trips across the Sound to Long Island. He arrived off White Beach about 8pm, for the winds and tide were not favorable for sailing into New London Harbor. He arrived home to find his family "all well," after swimming his horse ashore with "Mr. Griffing behind me on my horse." The trip across the sound cost Joshua nine shillings in New York money.



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The area's most historic event occurred at dawn, on September 6, 1781, when thirty-two British vessels appeared below the Lighthouse, sending panic through the region. Before long, two detachments of troops, eight hundred on each side of the river, came ashore at New London and Groton. On the New London side, the landing craft came to the beach between the Lighthouse and Long Rock: British regulars, Hessians, and Loyalist troops, under the command of Benedict Arnold, who had once been a patriot dedicated to the American cause.

They marched north from Brown's Gate, at the corner of Ocean and Niles Hill Road, to Town Hill Road (Ocean Avenue), meeting stiff but ineffective resistance along the way. Reaching the town, they looted and burned 143 buildings, storehouses and wharves. At Fort Griswold on the Groton side, the local militia were vastly outnumbered by the British. They valiantly held the fort as long as possible and finally surrendered, and nevertheless were massacred. This would be the last British victory of the Revolution.

Best Wishes
from
John and Laurie Deredita

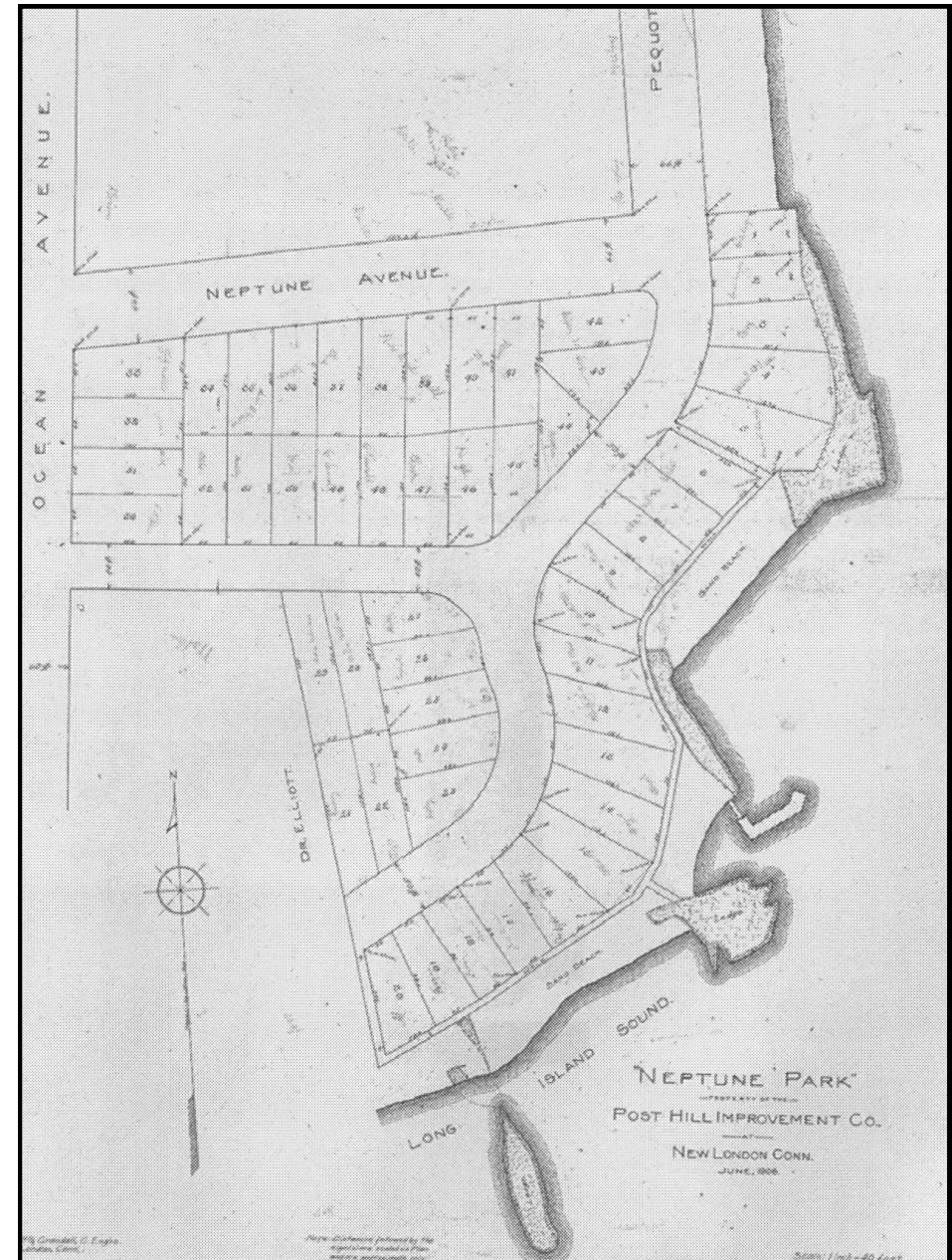
By the mid-1800s the old farms on the Neck were being subdivided into summer estates for the wealthy. Along the Thames River, a summer colony grew up surrounding the Pequot Hotel and the local headquarters of the New York Yacht Club. At that time several other seasonal residences were established west of the Lighthouse, belonging to a pair of New Yorkers, friends who were world-famous physicians. One belonged to the renowned eye doctor and civil rights activist, Brigadier General Samuel Mackenzie Elliott (1811-1875) - a friend to Abolitionists, social reformers, and literati. Elliott called his stone building his "hospital." Next door to the Elliotts, Dr. Valentine Mott (1785-1865) and family purchased a cottage and land from the Elliotts, naming it Neptune's Nook. Dr. Mott was America's preeminent surgeon at the time, a founder of what was to become New York University's medical school.

Elliott and Mott established summer homes in the south reaches of New London after rail service between New York and New London had been established. Another of their close neighbors was William Stuart or Steward, alias



Entrance to Neptune Park, Ocean Beach, New London

Edmund O'Flaherty, a vitriolic New York theater critic and manager with Edwin Booth of the Winter Garden Theater. Famous in their day, they are remembered locally only in the names of streets. Meanwhile, to the east along the Thames River as far as the Lighthouse, another colony of cottages was growing up around the Pequot House hotel.



A book, *Old Paths & Legends of the New England Border* (1907), shows a photo of the Elliotts' place, said to have been "built on the rock where the British landed," in their attack on New London in 1781. The writer reflects that the Elliotts' vine-covered stone cottage had long been a rendezvous of men of letters, though it turns out they were mainly women of letters. The photo shows the then-famous poet, Edith M. Thomas, who was a frequent summer resident. The cottage is not yet a castle (there are no battlements), but rather has a slightly pitched roof topped with a night-sky observatory. By 1912, it would be transformed into ex-Governor Thomas Waller's Castle.



Edith M. Thomas in front of Elliott's Home

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"History of New London's Celebrated Ocean Beach,"
The Day, 28 Sept. 1910, p.9

Starting in 1892, both Ocean Beach and Neptune Park were developed separately by the Post Hill Improvement Company, which bought up the property formerly part of the Elliott, Mott and Stuart holdings, under the leadership of Thomas Waller, a venerable politician of national prominence and the former governor of Connecticut. By 1906, water and sewer lines had been put through, and people were buying lots and constructing cottages. The company had first been formed to make improvements in the area around Vauxhall and Williams Streets (Post Hill), where Waller and other company officials lived. The group was finishing work on Riverside Park when their focus shifted to the city's south end. Waller was soon dubbed, "the Father of Ocean Beach."

The company first purchased White Beach and its surrounding land for \$25,000. After reserving the beach, the land was subdivided into small waterfront lots, many only twenty-eight feet wide. The beach itself was sold to the city for the same sum it had cost, and the lots were then sold within days for \$500 each. Large profits were realized. By 1904, there were seventy-five cottages at Ocean Beach and by the 1920s, many more, along with shops, eateries, rooming houses, a dance hall, saloon, penny arcade, merry-go-round, and even a rifle range.



Ocean Beach and Cottages, New London (c.1916)

Development at Ocean Beach was pretty much a free-for-all, and frequent trolleys, which by state mandate could charge no more than five cents one-way, made it highly accessible to day-trippers. Not so with Neptune Park, which made every attempt to set itself apart. Unlike Ocean Beach, the lots at Neptune Park were much larger and more

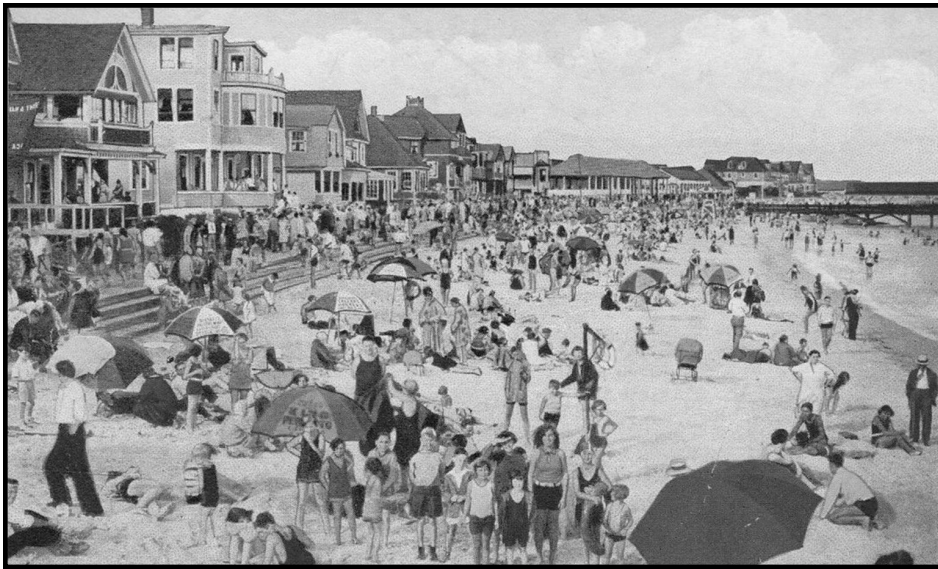


Trolley at the Parade Plaza, New London

expensive, starting at \$5,000. with significant deed restrictions. The first phase of Neptune park began in 1906, encompassing the former Mott estate, creating sixty-two lots out of the former "Neptune's Nook." Four years later, the Elliotts' former estate — an additional twenty-five lots — was acquired and the whole became Neptune Park.

*Best Wishes
from
Lloyd and Sandy Beachy*

No commercial concerns were permitted within Neptune Park, and of course, no boarding houses. There was to be no picnicking on the beach, and cottages were allowed no more than six guests at a time without special permission. Houses were supposed to be worth at least \$2,500, \$3,000 if on the waterfront. Fences, sheds, barns, bathhouses, and garages were all banned in the early days, and homes were required to have porches facing onto the street. Unlike Ocean Beach, there was a seawall between the beach and the first row of cottages.



Beach & Walk, looking East, Ocean Beach, New London

Lots sold quickly and cottages went up apace, sometimes on speculation. But it wasn't long before cottagers began complaining that Ocean Beach was attracting the wrong sort of people and that unruly behavior was spilling over into their cottage community. In 1916, in an effort to "stop disorder at Ocean Beach and Neptune Park," one-piece bathing costumes were forbidden by city ordinance, as were riding bicycles on the boardwalk and ball-playing on the beach. Police were assigned to patrol the situation night and day.

By 1919, there was only one waterfront lot left at Neptune Park, according to newspaper ads. More and more people were coming to Ocean Beach by automobile and residents of Neptune Park started putting up "No Parking" signs in their yards. In 1921, dogs were no longer permitted to roam free. By 1933, cottage owners formed a residents' association to regulate activities still further and maintain the neighborhood's appearance. They even hired their own Italian landscape gardener to maintain the common areas.

Not everyone who bought lots and built cottages in Neptune Park did so with the idea of spending summers there. Some were purchased strictly as an investment. Others built substantial summer homes, kept for generations in the family. Increasingly, the cottages became year-round homes. Especially during the 1930s, however, many cottages remained vacant, as can be seen in city directories.

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Aerial view of Neptune Park after the hurricane of 1938

Second only to the British invasion of New London on September 6, 1781, the Hurricane of September 21, 1938 was the biggest thing ever to hit the region. Ocean Beach, with its cottages, saloons, bathhouses, restaurants, and amusements, was utterly destroyed, while Neptune Park, with its seawall, survived. After the storm, the city purchased by eminent domain what had been the cottage colony at Ocean Beach and completely rebuilt it as a public facility.




Aerial view of Ocean Beach after the hurricane of 1938

Art McGinley, a writer for the Hartford Times, returned to his hometown to see the new Ocean Beach in the summer of 1940 and admitted that the park left him “wide-eyed and speechless.” The expanse of the sandy beach, the new, sleek buildings, and the boardwalk were wonders to behold. With an estimated crowd of 15,000 at the beach the day McGinley visited, there was still plenty of room, he said.



Ocean Beach Park, New London



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52 Mott Avenue Thomas Foran Cottage (1909)



Photo courtesy of Deborah Napelitano

This house epitomizes the typical early 20th century Connecticut beach cottage, but it is nearly unique in that it remains virtually unchanged. The only significant alteration was necessitated by damage from the Hurricane of 1938. When Thomas F. Foran purchased the cottage from Mary W. Farley in 1915, his family already had a home at 167 Huntington Street but wanted a beach home for the summer months. The house has remained in the same family since then, and it even contains much of its original Arts and Crafts furniture made by the Charles P. Limbert Company of Grand Rapids and Holland, Michigan.

Thomas Foran was the owner of New London's premier furniture store at that time, Foran & Sons furniture, which operated at 232 Bank Street until it was destroyed by fire. Family legend has it that Thomas furnished the cottage with unsold items from the inventory of the furniture store.

After Thomas Foran died in the 1920s, 52 Mott Avenue became the year-round home of his widow, Anna Foran. It was here that Anna and her granddaughter weathered the Hurricane of 1938, which came with no advance warning. After staying in the house until the storm turned deadly, they waded through waist-deep water to shelter on higher ground. When they returned, they found 4 feet of sand in the living room, and the porch and sea wall were missing. Still, the house was sound, and Anna stayed in an apartment for 6 months while repairs were made. In 2012, superstorm Sandy also caused significant damage, but repair were made again to the much-loved family home.

Of all of Thomas and Anna Foran's descendants, only the young Joseph Regan, a World War II veteran and lawyer, wanted the cottage. Unfortunately, he did not have enough money to buy it. To the rescue came Hubert Ryan, insurance agent and family friend (as well as father of New London historian, Sally Ryan), who lent Joseph the money to buy the house for himself and his bride, Christine. Christine continues to credit her friend Sally's father for the fact that she and the Regan family continue to enjoy the cottage to this day.

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14 Mott Avenue

Walter S. Garde House (1909)



Photo courtesy of G. Roger Clements

Walter Garde's cottage was built in the spring of 1909, designed by Dudley St. Clair Donnelly. Other buildings by Donnelly, or Donnelly & Hazeltine, include the Mariner's Bank and New London Savings, the Marsh building on State Street, and the Congregational Church on Groton Bank. Directly on Neptune Beach, the Garde cottage is a large, picturesque Dutch colonial, shingled on the second floor, stuccoed on the ground floor. Following the Hurricane of 1938, it was renovated and modernized, probably with the addition of the garage by architect Morris Benham Payne, who also owned and lived in the house.

Despite being locally famous as the namesake of the Garde Arts Center, not a great deal is known about Walter Sherman Garde. He was born in Meriden, Connecticut, in 1876, and went into the hotel business with his father,

William Henry Garde (1850–1907). Father and son worked to develop highly successful hotels in Hartford and New Haven. Walter lived in Hartford's fashionable Asylum Avenue neighborhood.

In 1925, Walter Garde bought the site of the future Garde Theater, and a month later sold it to Arthur S. Friend, a New York theatrical attorney. Garde is said to have financed the construction of the theater. The vaudeville-cinema house was designed by architect Arland W. Johnson with a Moroccan-style interior with wall murals by Vera Leeper. The theater sold in September 1929 to Warner Brothers for \$1,000,000 as one of their eighteen theaters in New England to introduce "talking pictures."

Like other cottagers in Neptune Park, the Gardes found New London a good place to entertain out-of-town guests, with friends from Hartford and New Haven being able to come for the day. In July of 1911, the Gardes entertained "Prince" Liang Tung-yen of China, his wife, and three children, and numerous retinue, after attending boat races in New London.



State Street, Looking East, New London
The Garde Theater can be seen on the left, with the Mercer building, built by Dudley St. Clair Donnelly, just next to it

In the 1920s, the comings and goings of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Garde are referenced in the local papers in terms of their return for the summer season from places like Palm Beach and the “Connecticut Colony” in Miami. By this time, many Neptune Park cottagers were keeping their places open all winter. With two mail deliveries per day and streetcars running every fifteen minutes, it had evolved into a convenient suburban neighborhood. Local newspapers noted twenty families spending the winter in Neptune Park in 1920.

The 1930 census, taken April 5, gives a snapshot of the Gardes: Walter Garde, 54, living on Mott Avenue, New London, with wife Olive, 36, daughter Marjorie, 23, and four servants: cook, butler, chauffeur, and caretaker. The real estate was valued at \$20,000.

In 1934, Walter’s wife, Olive, passed away at their home in Hartford. In 1935, daughter Marjorie (1905-1990) married Dr. Lawrence Perley Cogswell. They lived in West Hartford with Walter Garde, who is listed with the Cogswells in the 1940 Census.

The cottage at 14 Mott Avenue remained vacant, according to city directories, from 1934 to 1938. On September 22 of that year, just after the close of the summer season, a horrendous storm crossed Long Island Sound and swerved up the coast through New London. Hundreds of deaths were reported across New England, and the shoreline was left flooded and in tatters. Oblique

Aerial views taken of New London after the storm show the cottage at 14 Mott in remarkably good shape, though the ground floor on the beach side obviously sustained water and sand damage.

It was then, in early 1939, that architect Morris B. Payne acquired the house and undertook renovations. When the hurricane devastated the cottage community at Ocean Beach, many embraced the chance to start over. Once the plans and the bond issue were approved, it took only 6 months to build, and the new Ocean Beach opened in 1940. It was Morris Benham Payne and his partner Edward R. Keefe who oversaw the project.

In New London, Payne worked in partnership with a number of others, including Harry Todd Griswold and Edward Keefe. Payne & Keefe existed as a firm from about 1920 to the early 1950s. Among Payne’s building are New London’s Post Office, the Peter Schellens House (1915) on Groton Bank, the Barrows Building on State Street (1916), and other public buildings including the Ockford Fire Station on Riverview Avenue. Payne was also responsible for numerous armories throughout Connecticut.

The next owners of the house were Otto and Edith Grant, parents of the current owner. Otto and Edith enjoyed many happy years at the cottage. Both were born in 1919 and passed away in the same year: 2008. Among their many accomplishments, they made two Atlantic crossings in their sailboat.

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11 Elliott Avenue
Elliott's "Hospital" (1859)
Waller's "Castle" (1913)



Photo courtesy of Deborah Napelitano

Samuel Mackenzie Elliott (1811-1875) was the leading eye doctor in America before the Civil War, attracting people from far and wide to his home clinic on Staten Island and Offices in Manhattan. He would eventually open summer offices in New London, Boston, and Bar Harbor as well. Elliott insisted on calling himself an "oculist" rather than a "doctor." Born in Scotland and educated in Glasgow and London, he developed unconventional treatments that met with considerable success, and with considerable skepticism among some in the medical profession. Because so many of his patients were famous, Elliott's success was assured.

Elliott was also a real estate developer on Staten Island and built at least twenty-two homes there. One of these is today a National Register Gothic-style cottage made of locally quarried stone, twenty-three inches thick, built about 1840. The area of Staten Island where Elliott and his family settled became

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known as Elliottville, and the doctor attracted a wide circle of clients, some whom bought or rented homes from him there. The list of people he knew, some as patients, is astounding: John J. Audobon, James Russell Lowell, Francis Parkman, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Jacob Astor, Lydia Maria Child, Charles Dana, Horace Greeley, General Winfield Scott, and Giuseppe Garibaldi, to name a few. An avid abolitionist, Elliott founded a regiment in the Civil War, enlisted his own sons, and attained the rank of brigadier general. Dr. Elliott was an astronomer as well. He built an observatory at one of his homes on Staten Island, and also had an observatory at his stone house in New London. This superstructure survived until the Hurricane of 1938.



Elliott Avenue, New London

Around 1858, Dr. Samuel Mackenzie Elliott built a cottage near White Beach (later sold to Mott) and the next year, using labor from New York, built the stone structure that today is known as the Castle. By 1860, the Elliotts had acquired an additional 40 acres, including what today is now Ocean Beach. Dr. Elliott and his wife, Letitia, had a family of three sons, all of whom became doctors, and two daughters. Another two daughters from a previous marriage also figure into the division of the real estate when he died in 1875. The stone house itself passed to the

oldest son, Dr. Samuel Richard Elliott (1835-1909), known as Dr. Sam.

Dr. Sam, like his father, befriended leading writers and social activists of his day, and was himself a writer and amateur musician. Like his father, he was a great advocate of physical exercise and a hero of the Civil War. Educated at Columbia University, Heidelberg, and Paris, he graduated from the New York Medical College in 1856 at age 21 and embarked on a medical practice with his father. Besides being a child poet and musician, he was an accomplished broad-swordsman. As a young man, he traveled across Europe on foot, visiting many noteworthies, becoming a favorite at Elizabeth Barrett Browning's soirées in Florence, and fighting with Garibaldi's Redshirts, before rushing home at the outbreak of the Civil War. After the war, Dr. Sam wrote for the Atlantic Monthly and Harper's weekly, among other publications.

While on furlough in New London during the war, Dr. Sam proposed to his first cousin, Miss Amy Dinsmore, a New York actress who had been adopted into the Elliott family as a child. Their marriage produced no children. The couple shared the New London house with Dr. Sam's unmarried sister, Elizabeth, and a group of their friends including Mary S. Thompson, a teacher of elocution and drama who ran a summer school at the Elliotts' home in the 1890s. In 1909, when Dr. Sam passed away, Mary Thompson inherited the New London house. A proponent of the Delsarte system of expression, Thompson was internationally respected as a woman of "unusual intellectual virility," whose methodology had a great impact on the beginnings of American modern dance.

Thompson sold the New London property to ex-Governor Thomas Waller in 1910. Waller also purchased other property that had once belonged to the Elliotts, and he purchased the Mott property. He then sold it to the Post Hill Improvement Company, buying back a portion

(Lots A, B, X, and Y) in 1911, including his future home, soon dubbed Waller's Castle.

One report claims that Waller paid \$35,000 for the Elliott property, "a tract of sand dunes and swamp," and that another \$15,000 was needed to reclaim it. Thanks to numerous vintage postcards of the stone building, we know that the Elliotts' "hospital" was transformed into Waller's "castle." Most of the renovations took place in 1913, as reported in local newspapers.

Waller's rise is a quintessentially American rags-to-riches story: An orphaned son of Irish immigrants named Thomas Armstrong, living on the streets of New York hawking newspapers, signs on as a cabin boy (at the age of ten) on a clipper ship in the 1849 gold rush to California. However, instead of California, he lands in New London where he is adopted by a wealthy grocery store owner, Robert K. Waller (1806-1875), who educates him and brings him up in the family. Thomas Waller becomes a leading attorney, rises from mayor of New London (1873-1879) to become the thirty-third Governor of Connecticut (1883-1885) and then a nationally respected politician, and finally consul-general to London (1885-1889). In "retirement," he opens a law firm in New York, where he spends winters, and he develops Ocean Beach and Neptune Park in New London, where he spends summers. He also maintains the family home in the Post Hill section of New London.


When Thomas Waller passed away on January 24, 1924 at his castle in New London his life was called "one of



Thomas M. Waller

the most brilliant and picturesque in the history of the state," by his former law partner, Judge Christopher L. Avery.


The current owner, Jeffrey K. Miller of New Jersey, has been coming to the Castle since he was a boy and his grandparents, the Goodmans, owned it. Jeff has overseen major renovations in the past few years, and the cottage now has an entirely rebuilt interior. The spacious addition incorporates many original features, including stained glass. Peter J. Springsteel, an architect in Mystic, carried out Jeff's vision for an entirely comfortable, light-filled home, which nonetheless retains the mystery and charm of a castle.



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55 Neptune Avenue

The Brown Cottage (1911/1913)



Photo courtesy of G. Roger Clements

The oversized Arts & Crafts bungalow at the corner of Neptune and Ocean Avenues belonged to Grace D. Brown (1872-1937), wife of Cyrus Williams Brown (1866-1944). Cyrus and Grace, both from old North Stonington families, grew up in Westerly, where they were married in 1890. They had three children, Cyrus Jr., Helen and Stuart.

Cyrus Brown was a coal merchant and real estate developer, and he built a number of cottages in the vicinity. He was also the manager of “a local moving picture house,” head of the Empire Amusement Co., and its principal stockholder. He was an active Republican in city politics, served one term in the state legislature (1915-1916), and adamantly refused to run again. The family’s year-round home was located at 73 Broad Street.

A large addition was added to the north side of the cottage in 1913, providing the spacious entertaining area still enjoyed by the current owner. Brown was one of the

developers of Alewife Cove, and when his cottages were not being rented, the Browns used them for entertaining. For instance, as reported in the local press, in July 1916, daughter Helen, sixteen, with her friend Dolly Waller (granddaughter of the ex-Governor), threw a large party at one of her parents’ cottages on Alewife Cove (all properly chaperoned, of course). After dinner, “the young boys and girls” went to the pavilion at Ocean Beach for dancing. Mr. Brown was part-owner of the pavilion, which boasted a dance floor and bowling alley.



The Pavilion, Ocean Beach, New London

Other Notable Neptune Park Homes

46 Mott Avenue

46 Mott Avenue is one of the oldest and best preserved cottages in Neptune Park. It has come down in the original owner's family. Both street and beachfront have full pediments with tripartite Palladian windows. It was built in 1900 by Jeremiah D. Cronin (1844-1926) (minus the garage) before Neptune Park was organized. Cronin was born in County Kerry, Ireland, and came to the U.S. with his parents at the age of fourteen, where they settled in Colchester. He owned a lucrative plumbing business just when everyone in New London was installing indoor facilities. He was a popular politician and built the Cronin building on State Street in 1893, where his son had law offices. The cottage was passed down in the Cronin family to Agnes, who married Russell R. Waesche, the Admiral of the U.S. Coast Guard from 1936-1945 and the Coast Guard's longest serving commandant.

49 Mott Avenue

49 Mott Avenue is a good example of one of the more modest vernacular cottages in Neptune Park that is still largely intact. It was built as a year-round home by Rudolph and Margaret Seibler who leased it. The Sieblers lived in an apartment in the Mohican Hotel and ran a smoke shop and variety store. In 1916, the Sieblers rented the cottage to Captain Frederick Hinsch, who was in charge of the submarine Deutschland docked at the new State Pier in New London. It turns out that Hinsch was a spymaster and saboteur, credited with masterminding the Black Tom

explosion in New York harbor in July of 1916. After Siebler died in 1933, the property was owned by Ludwig Mann, who also took over his New London tobacco shop. Mann and his wife, Sadie, never lived at the cottage; their home was at 286 Montauk Avenue. Like the Seiblers, they had no children but, after her husband's death during World War II, Sadie took in two British child evacuees, distant relations of hers, who always remembered her and their time in New London fondly.

1164 Ocean Avenue

1164 Ocean Avenue (1916) at the corner of Elliott Avenue, is a splendid stucco bungalow built for Edmund D. Steele (1861-1921). The design and building material were "new" at this time. The Steeles had a clothing store in the Manwaring building on State Street. Ed and his wife, Maud, never lived here. They had a home at 309 Ocean Avenue before moving to the Oswegatchie Colony in Waterford around the time this cottage was built.



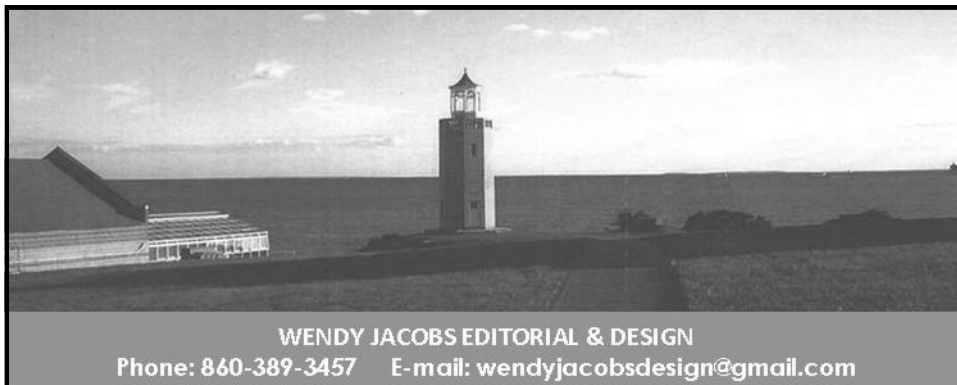
View of Mott Avenue, New London



Neptune Avenue, New London, CT



Bathing at Ocean Beach, New London



WENDY JACOBS EDITORIAL & DESIGN

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ABOUT NEW LONDON LANDMARKS

New London Landmarks is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors and three part-time employees. The mission of New London Landmarks is to promote the preservation and development of the urban environment of New London, Connecticut, including significant individual structures, streetscapes, neighborhoods, and open spaces.

The New London Landmarks office, located at 49 Washington Street, contains extensive files on all National Register Historic Districts and Individually Listed Sties in New London. Additional files are kept on individual structures, listed by street address. Historic and current photo files, newspaper clippings, maps and a variety of historic documents are included in the files.

Appointments for research can be made by calling 860-442-0003. A minimum research fee is charged depending upon the staff time required and the number of copies or scans that are requested.



What We Do at New London Landmarks

We are actively working to preserve New London's historic resources through educational programs, house tours, collaborations with New London Main Street, also a National Trust program, and other historic organizations in the city.

New London Landmarks...

- Advocates for the preservation and maintenance of New London's historic and cultural resources.
- Advocates for the concept:
 "Preservation IS Economic Development."
- Researches New London's architectural treasures and history.
- Maintains and expands informational files on homes and buildings.
- Plans educational programs and tours relating to New London's history and architecture.
- Works to preserve New London's historic resources through house tours and collaborations with New London Main Street and other historic organizations in the city.

For more information, contact us!

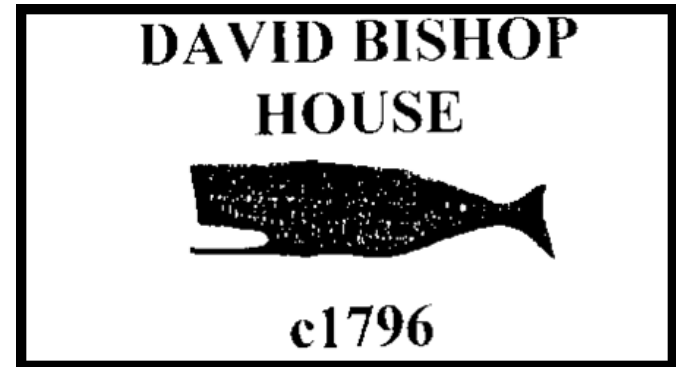
Email: director@newlondonlandmarks.org

Phone: 860-442-0003

Visit us during office hours: 11:00am-3:00pm Monday-Thursday
49 Washington Street, New London, CT

Looking for a Unique and Memorable Gift to
Give this Holiday Season?

CONSIDER A NEW LONDON LANDMARKS



New London homes or buildings that are at least 50 years old qualify to receive an historic marker listing its date and original owner. The information gathered in this process aids in neighborhood preservation efforts and is archived in our office for future generations.

Our title researcher will study land, tax, and water records, historic maps, and city directories to establish your building's first owner and date of its estimated construction. The researcher also welcomes any oral history or copies of old documents relating to your building. Allow at least 16-20 weeks for completion of the research and the durable, hand-lettered and sealed hardwood plaque.

We now offer gift certificates for our whale plaques so you can give the gift of historic preservation!

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Upcoming Events for 2017

Candidates' Forum

October 18, 2017

Come Meet New London's City Council candidates and hear their views on historic preservation and economic development in New London.

Where: Public Library of New London, community room

When: Wednesday, October 18 from 6:30-8:30

Holiday Church Tour

Tentative Date: December 30, 2017

Visit three historic churches in New London for a holiday tour with live music at each location!

A family-friendly walking tour that will be held rain or shine. See magnificent architecture, learn the history of the buildings and listen to live music!

When: December 30, 2017 starting at 12:45pm

\$15 admission/\$10 for members. Tickets can be purchased by credit card up to one day before the event, or by cash or check at the door.

This Tour Was Made Possible By:

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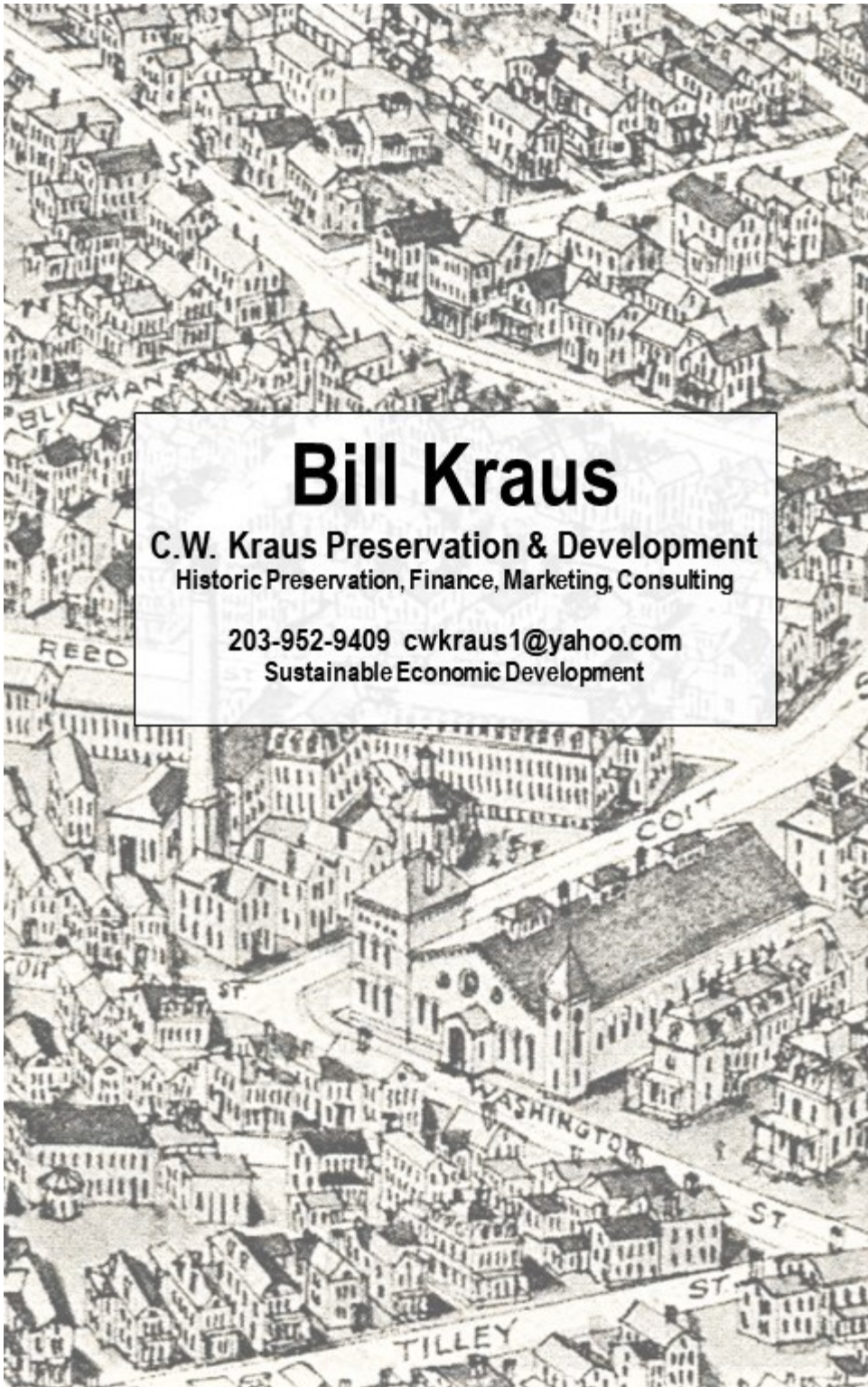
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