



The Preservationist

SPRING 2011

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The Preservationist

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35TH ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS

2010 Preservation Award:
William & Mallory Hannaford
938 Ocean Avenue



Photo: Sylvia Malizia



2010 Clifford Stone Award

Dylan Gaffney

&

Grisha Nersesyan

Lyric Hall, xx State Street
Restoration in Progress

Volunteer Award:

Karen McLaughlin
Financial consultation
and guidance



Photo: Ted Hendrickson



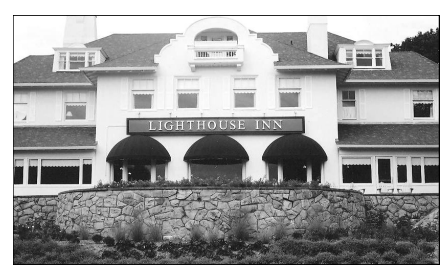
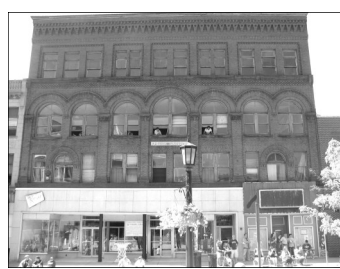
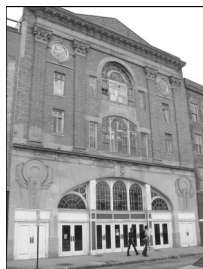
Most Endangered: Riverside Park

New London Landmarks believes that every citizen of New London should consider carefully the long-term, unintended consequences of selling Riverside Park to the Coast Guard Academy. Parks and open spaces are critical to the social and economic health of an urban center. They also tend to be used primarily by the local citizens so neighborhoods around city parks are the primary beneficiaries of the open spaces. In the upcoming referendum, citizens throughout the city will be determining the future of the historic neighborhood near the Park. As you consider your vote, think of your own neighborhood park and appreciate the value it brings to your area.

Still Endangered

The Capitol Theater, The Cronin Building, The Lighthouse Inn

These three buildings are major gems in the historic New London landscape. Their long histories, their strategic positions in the city, and their significant architectural merits should not be lost in spite of the costs of finding appropriate re-use and re-development. For economic development to flourish in New London we need to find a way to return each of these buildings to active and productive use.



SUMMER EVENTS

Thanks to a terrific response from the Survey sent out in December, the Promotion/Development committee, led by Krystal Kornegay Rose, has developed a series of interesting events for the summer and fall. Up-dates will be available on our web site: www.newlondonlandmarks.org, on Facebook, and if we have your email address you will receive Constant Contact reminders. We want to keep you informed and hope to see you at many of these events.

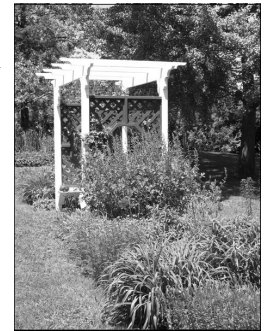
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011: Coit Street from Hempstead Houses to Shaw Mansion — 2:00 \$15.

This tour will lead through one of the most historic neighborhoods in the city. At one time the whole area was waterfront and Bream Cove was the site of the earliest shipbuilding in the city.



We will meet at the Hempstead Houses, originally waterfront property and home for many generations of the Hempstead family, one of the original settlers in the city. Joshua Hempstead is the author of *The Hempstead Diary*, a remarkable record of life in New London from 1711 to 1758.

The tour will lead through the Coit Street neighborhood and end with a tour of the Shaw Mansion and gardens. This was originally a waterfront property, built by Nathaniel Shaw, who owned ships and profited from trade with the West Indies. There is a long New London history associated with this fine stone mansion including a rumor that George Washington spent the night there as a guest of Nathaniel Shaw. Today it is a house museum and home for the New London County Historic Society.



SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011: Tea and Visit to an Historic House and Garden — 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

\$20 members \$30 non members. Reservations Only. (Rain Date Sunday)

Join New London Landmarks for tea and lemonade at the beautifully restored home of Kate Wick at 5 Granite Street, just across from Ye Olde Antientest Buriall Ground.

The gardens should be at their peak in early June. Enjoy a refreshing lemonade as you explore the garden. Tea with all the trimmings will be served while viewing the beautifully renovated interior rooms on the ground floor. This 1847 house has floor-to-ceiling windows and beautiful furnishings. It was built by John O. Arnold and was the home of whaling captain John "Boney" Rice.

Heather Grigsby, Chair of the Plaque Research Committee will provide information on the research done to document Landmarks historic Whale Plaques.



AUGUST—Time and Date to be selected—Fishers Island cruise and tour—\$25 members, \$30 non-members

This popular summer event is becoming an annual treat! A wonderful boat ride across the sound to Fishers Island and a walk along Winthrop Street (Yes, John Winthrop owned property on Fishers Island) to the Henry L. Ferguson Museum. Their new exhibit this summer is on Fishers Island homes completed between 1926 and World War II. Major architects of the era designed fine summer cottages for wealthy families.

SEPTEMBER: Two Sunday's in September

We haven't set dates yet for these two events but take note that the glory days of September will offer two interesting opportunities to enjoy the cooler fall weather and explore two neighborhoods not usually on our tour lists.

RIVERSIDE PARK & EAST NEW LONDON NEIGHBORHOOD \$15.

Guided Neighborhood tours at 2:00 and 3:00. TweenTimes enjoy walking through the Park, check out the new magnet school construction and peer through the fence at the waterfront area. Entertainment and refreshments will be available at the picnic area in the center of the park.

Details will be developed through the summer. This is an opportunity to see the park and it's neighborhood before the November election.

SUNDAY NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS—Hillside Road—2:00—\$15.

Hillside Road was originally part of the 12 acre Guthrie estate. In 1925 Francis Amelia Guthrie formed Pequot Realty and divided the grounds for new homes and a street grid was laid out including Hillside Road. The Guthrie mansion, Meadow Court, opened as the Lighthouse Inn in 1928. Most of the homes on Hillside and neighboring streets were built in the 1920s and 30s.

Continued on page 4

LAURIE DEREDITA, PRESIDENT

SPRING THOUGHTS

After an unusually harsh winter, it is wonderful to get outside again and to see signs of spring reappearing all over New London. Soon there will be baskets of colorful flowers hanging from the lamp posts downtown and people sitting under umbrellas on the patios and decks of restaurants and cafes. New London is especially beautiful in the summer/fall seasons and New London Landmarks has a schedule of outdoor activities planned, ranging from a Saturday afternoon tea party at an historic Granite Street house and garden in June to a tour of Cedar Grove Cemetery in October. In between those dates are other events designed to take advantage of the warm weather, including tours of historic neighborhoods led by city historian Sally Ryan and the popular August cruise to Fisher's Island.

New this year is a tour of the Riverside Park and neighborhood, to be scheduled for a September Sunday. The event will be designed to draw the attention of the citizens of New London to an important issue that is scheduled to come up for a vote in the fall: whether to sell a large portion of this historic public park in North New London to the Coast Guard Academy. About 15 years ago the idea was raised of selling New London's Ocean Beach, which had been allowed to fall into neglect. Fortunately, thanks to the passionate efforts of local citizens who organized the Save Ocean Beach volunteer organization, the beach today is a thriving public park for the city and the region, and there are even plans to restore some of the historic buildings to their original "arte moderne" style. With this example in mind, the sale of Riverside Park's 18 acres of public open space in a small city of only 6 square miles is a loss to be considered very carefully.

NEW LONDON AND THE COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Throughout its history, New London has provided land—and often funding—for important institutions including the U.S. Navy, hospitals and educational needs. In 1910, the Revenue Cutter Service's School of Instruction moved to Fort Trumbull. In 1915, Congress merged the Revenue Cutter and Lifesaving Services to create the Coast Guard.

When a need for a women's college in the State of Connecticut was recognized the City of New London led the effort to establish Connecticut College by providing \$50,000 for the land and raising \$134,824.41 in a city-wide fund raising drive. Today we are celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the college in New London.

Only a few years later, in the early 1920s, the Coast Guard Academy at Fort Trumbull determined it needed a new, larger location and many other cities vied for the opportunity of hosting the campus. The states of Washington and Florida were considered. New Bedford was anxious to host the Academy. In 1928 a Mrs. Billard, the former Clara Prentiss of New London, determined that her home town should retain the Academy and her influence led the way for the City of New London to purchase two tracts of land, totaling about 100 acres, on the northern fringe of the city for \$100,000. It was known as the "park site" due to the location of Riverside Park immediately to the south. The Allyn estate, combined with a strip of the Payne estate made up the major portion of the property as well as a section along the river owned by the Central Vermont Railroad. This land was given to the Federal Government to house the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The Murch Brothers Construction Company of St. Louis Missouri was hired to construct the campus. Banner headlines in New London newspapers heralded the groundbreaking ceremony on January 28, 1931.

Since then the Academy has nibbled away at Riverside Park as its own needs expanded:

- In 1949, the city gave up a small parcel of Riverside Park so the Academy could build a chapel
- In 1961, 13 acres were taken from the park by eminent domain to expand the Academy. The city was paid \$36,000
- Today they want 9.14 acres at the center of the park—and are offering \$2.9 million. This leaves the city with a small, steep edge along the west side of the park and along Adelaide Street. A waterfront strip on the water side of the railroad tracks—also left to the city, is inaccessible at the moment as the bridge across the tracks is condemned.

Landmarks believes Riverside Park is an important asset for the future of the city and should not be casually sold. Please join discussions, visit the Park and the Neighborhood, think about the future before you make a final decision on the Park.

2011 MEMBERS JOINING IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

Are you *passionate* about New London? Be sure to join friends and neighbors AND join Landmarks
Become a *passionate* member!

Individual

Frances Baratz
 Carolyn Batista
 Vincentia Belbruno
 Marvin Berger
 Trix Bodde
 Carol Booth
 Ann Carroll
 Susan Cash
 CT Soc. Sons of the American
 Revolution
 Barbara Dixon
 Kevin Doyle
 Fern Drutman
 Jonathan Dunklee
 Joseph Feinberg
 Edward Hammond
 Alice Houston
 Joan Humphreville
 Carmelina Kanzler
 Tek-Wah King
 Peter Kreckovic
 Michele Kripps
 Barry Lakowsky
 Armand Lambert
 Rose Longo
 Dorothy Miller
 Samuel G. Morrison
 Susan Munger
 Robert Nye
 Joy Orlando
 Alma Peterson

Christine Regan
 Robert Richter
 Louisa Shakkour
 Daniel Shemet
 Marie Spencer
 Martha Williams

Family

Wadonna & Jack Ashcraft
 Armand & Elizabeth Beaudette
 Garrett & Victoria Brennan
 Joseph Celli
 Arthur & Cecile Costa
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell DeMarco
 Laurie & John Deredita
 J.D. & Kathy Diaz-Saavedra
 Dale & Donald Ely
 Paul & Timothy Foley
 Josh & Elizabeth Friedman
 Margaret Palmer &
 Robert Hauschild
 John & Anne Hunziker
 Carl & Winifred Josephson
 James & Ellen McGuire
 Sara Munro
 Edward Murphy
 Gay Myers & Lance Mayer
 Sylvia Malizia & Fred Paxton
 Elvia Penrose
 Sandals-Beers
 Ellen & Rob Scala
 Tod & Pat Schaefer

Diane & Steve. Smith
 James & Sherburne Stidfole
 John & Joan Wiles
 Michael Wright & Scott Ross
 Abbigail Van Slyck &
 Mitchell Favreau

Contributor

Nathan & Patricia Belcher
 Jeffrey & Evelyn Callahan
 Antoinette DuPont
 Edgar Forest
 Harmon-Bowman Enterprises
 George Jagger
 Stephen Joncus
 Arlan & Barbara Mantz
 Jerry Olson & Vivian Stanley

Patron

Heidi & Paul Brody
 Jerry Brophy
 Deborah & Daniel Connors
 Daryl Finizio
 Richard & Heather Grigsby
 Arlan & Barbara Mantz
 Deborah McCann
 Stanley & Patricia Pugsley
 Barbara Timken
 Russell & Frances Vocalina
 Wick & Rodi York

Corporate/Business

Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

Membership year in New London Landmarks is from April 1st through March 31st.

Benefits of membership include receiving copies of The Preservationist, postcards and mailings about special events and, most importantly, support for our work to preserve and protect New London's historic urban landscape, homes and buildings.

**Individual: \$25 Family: \$35 Contributor: \$50—\$75 Patron: \$100 and above
 Corporate: \$200 and above**

SUMMER AND FALL 2011 SCHEDULE

CONT. FROM PAGE 2

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 —Cedar Grove Cemetery Tour led by Bill Peterson 2:00—\$25 members, \$30 non-members

Stroll along picturesque winding paths through this 160 year old cemetery passing architectural masterpieces of another kind. Led by Bill Peterson, the fine monuments to New London's most prominent citizens hold stories of valor, tragedy, and proud family histories covering several generations. The rolling landscape is enhanced with fine old trees, many planted when the cemetery was designed in the 1850s.

2010 ANNUAL APPEAL

A great big “THANK YOU” to everyone who responded to *Connect The Dots!* Landmarks will continue to work this year—and longer—to bring New London together and have a vital and prosperous city with an active waterfront all along the Thames River from the Coast Guard Academy and Riverside Park to Ocean Beach.

Contributions as of 3/28/11

Under \$50

Vincentia Belbruno
Seymour Benson
Joan H. Butler
Kevin Doyle
Antoinette DuPont
Jerome & Christine Fischer
Lawrence Hall
Irene Jacey
Barbara Kill
Krystal Kornegay
Peter Kreckovic
Molly McKay
Pamela McNulty-Hennessey
Peter & Christina Moore
Penny Parsekian
Michael & Mary Passero
Robert Richter
Peter Roper
Hubert & Emily Ryan
Adam & Jean Spreccace
James & Sherburne Stidfole
Ruth Sussler
Martha Williams

\$50—\$99

Nathan & Patricia Belcher
Marion Bodde

Carol Booth
Susan & Donald Cash
Arthur & Cecile Costa
Johnathan Ericson
Edgar Forest
Edward M. Hammond
Dorothy Leib
Sylvia Malizia & Fred Paxton
Morgan & Mary E. McGinley
James & Ellen MGuire
Diana & Paul McMasters
Daniel & Glenna Moalli
Edward Murphy
Denis O'Brien
Colin Revill
Marian Shilstone
Diane Smith
George Spreccace
Robert & Ronna Stuller
Russell Vocalina
Greg Waterman
Elizabeth Whitley
Kathleen Wick
Barbara Zabel & Thomas Couser

\$100—\$249

Mary Anderson
Harold Arkava

Chelsea Groton Savings Bank
Laura Cordes
John & Laurie Deredita
J.D. & Kathy Diaz-Saavedra
Anthony Enders
Catherine Fosnot
Richard & Heather Grigsby
Hendel's Inc.
George Jagger
Stephen Joncus
Rose Longo
William Morse
Susan Munger
Carl Stoner
Philip Turner
Abigail Van Slyck & Mitchell Fabreau

\$250—\$499

Yankee Remodeler
Eugene & Rodi York

\$500

Frederick & Kathleen Barrett
Lloyd & Sandy Beachy
Charles Curtin
John & Sarah Steffian

SUMMER AND FALL 2011 SCHEDULE

CONT. FROM PAGE 4

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER: To be scheduled: MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM (s)

Landmarks plans to continue its traditional interest in New London elections. As in past years, Landmarks is interested in the opinions of candidates on issues of preservation, economic development and, especially this year, in their knowledge and understanding of the many planning initiatives that have taken place in the last year. .

The decision to keep or sell Riverside Park and economic development plans are sure to be dominant themes in the city next fall. Landmarks will plan at least one Forum to give all candidates an opportunity to address some of our interests on preservation and the development plans being studied. [See the Fall 2010 edition of *The Preservationist*]

DECEMBER/JANUARY: To be scheduled: SACRED SPACES TOUR

Our beautiful downtown churches continue as active participants in community life. We will offer another tour of the churches during the holiday season and encourage friends and members to enjoy their special offerings during the season.

THANKS TO THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM

Their support continues to provide basic operational support to all our activities.



Connecticut Commission
on Culture & Tourism

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

SANDRA KERSTEN CHALK

ANNUAL MEETING

We were happy to see so many friends and members at the Annual Meeting at Fiddlehead's Co-op last month! The discussion on Riverside Park began a conversation that I hope will continue until the referendum in November. A good number of Park neighbors attended and provided a personal plea for the importance of the park for this historic East New London neighborhood. While the Coast Guard Academy has needs for space, NLL believes that the community surrounding the park as well as all the citizens of this urban center have compelling reasons to preserve open space. Riverside Park is an important resource for the city, for the new magnet school and as a critical element in the work to re-connect East New London with its center city.

New officers were elected:

President: Laurie Deredita

Vice President: Laura Cordes

Secretary: Susan Munger

I am also happy to welcome **Brian Kent** and **Jeff Dickens** to the Board.

Brian is a graduate of the University of Georgia and owner of Kent + Frost Landscape Architecture designers in Mystic.

Jeff has a Masters of Library Science and Arts in Public History from Indiana University and is the Instruction and Electronic Resources Librarian at Mitchell College.

DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP

A major recommendation of the HyettPalma study was to reinvigorate the Downtown Partnership whose members are leaders from a variety of downtown organizations including the arts, historic and business groups. We have had three meetings since the first of the year and ideas have been exchanged, all stimulated by the professional studies recently completed for the city. [See the Fall 2010 edition of The Preservationist]

More than just more talk, the group is working to develop specific action plans that can be implemented to begin the work of economic development in the city.

From more events in downtown, regular activities on the Parade Plaza, increasing art shows and the new First Friday art strolls, the summer calendar is filled with activities to attract regional residents to the Historic Waterfront District and the restaurants, galleries and shops downtown.

Longer range efforts will focus on the waterfront and the redevelopment of the under utilized buildings downtown.

While parts of the Waterfront Park will be unavailable this summer due to the necessary re-building of City Pier, a new

mooring field for visiting boats will be installed at the far end of the Park. The New York Yacht Club is planning a stop in the city at the end of July and increasing the number of yachts in the harbor will bring new visitors to downtown events.

Of course basic issues of clean streets, improved signage, sidewalk maintenance, etc. are all concerns of the Partnership. Each member is encouraged to take up projects that are of the most interest to the mission of their organization and Landmarks will be particularly involved with the effort to find new incentives that will lead to the renovations of historic downtown buildings.

FORT TRUMBULL

A public charrette was held April 2 at the conference center in Fort Trumbull and over 60 citizens showed up on a beautiful



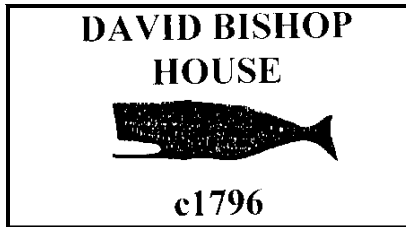
spring day to express their ideas for development in the Fort. Led by Alan Plattus of Yale Urban Design Workshop six groups were formed to work on a large map of the area with many little building pieces to establish locations for hotels, housing, retail, business, entertainment and other facilities.

Reporting to the larger group at the end of 1 1/2 hours of intense design planning, a number of specific ideas stood out:

- Everyone expressed the importance of connecting Fort Trumbull with the downtown waterfront district
- Maritime taxi's linking all sites along the Thames was recommended as well as the eventuality of a splendid pedestrian bridge linking to the Waterfront Park
- The possibility of developing a showcase for Green Technology was suggested for all buildings on the site
- A hotel, a museum and/or another attraction to enhance interest in the Fort and bring people to New London as well as the Fort is considered essential
- A mix of commercial/business spaces with parking and appropriate retail to support residential development
- Several groups felt it was important to keep the fishing fleet at its location and to add a seafood restaurant and fresh fish market.
- The eventual need for a commuter railroad station led to a recommendation to reserve space for later development

A final report will be available by the end of the summer and another public presentation will be made.

Historic Plaque Application



If your New London home/building is at least 50 years old, it may qualify to receive an historic marker listing its date and original owner. The information gathered in this process aids in neighborhood preservation efforts.

Our volunteer title researchers study land, tax and water records, historic maps, and city directories to establish your building's first owner and date of its construction.

The researchers also welcome any oral history or copies of old documents relating to your building that you may have. Please allow at least

16 - 20 weeks for completion of the research and delivery of the durable, hand-lettered, sealed hardwood plaque.

PLAQUE ADDRESS

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

DAY PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

LEGAL OWNER (IF DIFFERENT) _____

APPROXIMATE DATE PURCHASED BY CURRENT OWNER _____ APPROXIMATE AGE OF PROPERTY _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: YES ☐ NO ☐

PRICE OF PLAQUE: \$250.00 Non-member \$235.00 Members Re-Painting a Plaque \$100.00
A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required with this application. Balance is due upon completion.

HISTORIC PLAQUES COMPLETED

13 Georgiana Street
C. 1884
Andrew J. Bentley

563 Pequot Avenue
1863
Mary Stedman

33 Prest Street
1901
Edward Prest

18 Mountain Avenue
1851
David Bishop

HISTORIC WHALE PLAQUES

If you have a Landmarks Whale Plaque on your home and it is fading, chipping or wearing away, we can have it restored for a fee of \$100.00

These are hardwood plaques, hand painted with the historic information, but we realize they don't last forever.

The program began in 1985 so some of these plaques have been "out in the weather" for many years. Let us know if restoration is in order.

We just restored the plaque on the stone Benjamin Brown 1833 house at 258 Bank Street.



49 Washington Street
Post Office Box 1134

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011: SUNDAY NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS

COIT STREET from Hempstead Houses to Shaw Mansion — 2:00 - \$15.

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Visit a lovely historic home, recently remodeled for tea with all the trimmings and/or lemonade in a beautiful garden

AUGUST—Time and Date to be selected—Fishers Island cruise and tour \$25 members, \$30 non-members

This popular summer event is becoming an annual treat! A sail across the sound to Fishers Island and a walk along Winthrop Street (Yes, John Winthrop owned property on Fishers Island) to the Henry L. Ferguson Museum.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY'S - SUNDAY NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS: \$15.

RIVERSIDE PARK & EAST NEW LONDON NEIGHBORHOOD - Guided Neighborhood tours at 2:00 and 3:00.

TweenTimes enjoy walking through the Park, check out the new magnet school construction and peer through the fence at the waterfront area.

HILLSIDE ROAD - Hillside Road was originally part of the 12 acre Guthrie estate. In 1925 Francis Amelia Guthrie formed Pequod Realty and divided the grounds for new homes and a street grid was laid out including Hillside Road. Most of the homes on Hillside and neighboring streets were built in the 1920s and 30s.

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