



The Preservationist

WINTER 2016

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Address

New London Landmarks

49 Washington Street

P.O. Box 1134

New London, CT 06320

(860) 442-0003

Email:

info@

newlondonlandmarks.org

Web Site:

newlondonlandmarks.org

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday

11:00 am – 2:00 pm

The Preservationist

Editor

Constance Kristofik

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KEVIN O'CONNOR OF *THIS OLD HOUSE* COMES TO NEW LONDON IN APRIL

This Old Home Show brings vendors and experts from New England to provide a full-service home show for owners of historic properties. From windows to plaster and woodworking to historic tax credits, this specialty trade show shares the resources and “tools” needed to restore your old home.

There will be a full day of exhibitors and workshops on restoration topics from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Ocean Beach Park in New London, Connecticut. In the afternoon, **Kevin O'Connor of *This Old House*** from PBS will share his preservation stories followed by a meet-and-greet.

Event details on page 6.



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The Holly & the Ivy revisited! In December, 220 families attended “The Holly and the Ivy,” a play written by Connecticut playwright Charles Traeger and produced by Flock Theatre. The scenes took place during four periods in history on Christmas Eve, and performances were held at different historic sites in New London. Each walking tour started at the David Bishop House on Washington Street, home to New London Landmarks. Guests were met by “Frost,” their guide, who took them through time using a piece of ivy as a portal. The small groups of 15 then proceeded to the Hempsted Houses for a scene that was set during the colonial period. Afterwards guests were led through the Coit Street Historic District to the Shaw Mansion, home to The New London County Historical Society, where the scene took place around the time of the Civil War, shortly after the death of Lucretia Shaw. The Custom House Maritime Museum was the next location, where the audience was amused by a jolly group of men from the Jibboom Club Society of the whaling period. The play ended with a heartwarming scene at the Hygienic, where sailors were returning from the World War II in 1944. New London Landmarks enjoyed working with its cultural partners and looks forward to another production in three to five years.



Connecticut
still revolutionary

Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Since the Creative Placemaking Project in 2012, the Hodges Square Village Association (HSVA) has become the voice of the Northeast section of New London and an advocate for the continuation of the *Reconnect New London* campaign. Although Interstate 95 and service roads separate Hodges Square from the rest of the City, there is a momentum to rejoin the neighborhoods with Williams Street as the major linkage. Hodges Square consists of a short commercial corridor, a historic residential neighborhood, and Riverside Park. Connecticut College and US Coast Guard Academy border the north, and downtown is located south of the highway.

The Hodges Square Village Association would like to be a catalyst for change and a model for other communities to rejuvenate neighborhoods. HSVA is part of Thames Valley Sustainable Community Connections, which serves as the fiduciary agent for this grassroots community organization. President/CEO Art Costa of TVSC says, "HSVA would like to influence the City on behalf of an underrepresented community." He hopes their unity and presence at City affairs will garner an attentive ear to their requests and concerns.

Economic development is sought for the Hodges Square neighborhood with hopes that all vacant properties be sold and/or rented with full occupancy. The Hodges Square Shopping Center is a big concern because the building is a focal point or place-marker for the neighborhood. It is currently empty (partially) and needs repairs. The neighborhood still has sidewalk paving issues and the streets need to be more pedestrian- and bike-friendly. Clearer crosswalks and bike lanes are desired as HSVA looks to "complete streets" as a model. They would also like to increase foot traffic from both Connecticut College and the US Coast Guard Academy to/from Hodges Square. Conversations about gentrification will be part of the process.

The Hodges Square Village Association and local businesses, residents and other New Londoners have rallied together and fundraised to implement some changes to Hodges Square. HSVA encouraged property owners to improve their landscaping and to clean up their lots. They also organized a couple of community clean-ups with help from students at Connecticut College and cadets from the US Coast Guard Academy. Planters, bicycle racks, and receptacles were added along the main thoroughfare, as well as repainting some buildings and a retainer wall at one of the gas stations.

In 2015, Visiting Architecture Professor Stephen Fan designed and built a community parklette with the help of students, HSVA and volunteers. It is located on an empty lot next to Copy Cats on Williams Street. In the fall, the fountain that was originally in front of the Hodges Square Shopping Center was returned from its storage location at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum. The museum, which had been stewards for the monument, was delighted to return it to its home. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on November 24, 2015. On that day, Mayor Daryl Justin Finizio, several city officials, the board of Hodges Square Village Association, and many residents welcomed the fountain back home.

The Hodges Square Village Association has raised awareness of the community and its streetscape. The south side of Williams Street will be painted soon with bike lanes, and HSVA would like to see the bike lanes extend under the 95 underpass and up Williams Street. The Under 95 Project is a creative community art project that will paint the highway underpasses to make the connections from Hodges Square to the rest of the city more inviting. It is in early planning stages, and community outreach will be done in the future once authorizations from the Department of Transportation are finalized and a timeline is drafted.



HODGES SQUARE CON'T

The HSVA Board includes two members, Cathi Strother and Priscilla Clark Peabody, who keep Hodges Square connected to projects at Riverside Park.

This community organization seeks volunteers and new board members. While all are welcome, Hodges Square Village Association would greatly appreciate more business owners and residents of the neighborhood to help build the organization and improve the neighborhood. If interested, please attend monthly meeting or call 860-460-3385 or email info@tvsci.org or see one of the members below:



Co-Chairs: Forrest Sklar (Co-Owner Copy Cats Inc.) and Cathi Strother (Resident)

Committee Members: Priscilla Peabody (Resident), Robert Lee (Lee's Oriental Market), Ray Geer (Sun Turtle), Katelin Teel (Administrator/Finance), Josh Stoffel (Connecticut College), Mahmut Tandugan (Resident)

Advisors: Art Costa (Thames Valley Sustainable Connections Inc.) and Jerry Sinnamon (Thames Valley Sustainable Connections Inc.)

Additional Involved Community Members: Ronda Burke, Anastasia Hart, Paul Foley, Ed Hart, Drew Wilson, Mirna Martinez, Ronna Stuller, Terran Gainer, Mike Doyle, Taryn Kitchen, Jennifer Cunningham, Lauren Anderson, Max Nichols

A master plan was developed in November 2013 through the New London Creative Place-Making Project sponsored by New London Landmarks. This plan includes both the Hodges Square and Williams Street area and Riverside Park. Topics covered include maps, street improvements, landscaping, and park renovations. Email info@newlondonlandmarks.org for a digital copy.

HODGES SQUARE COMMUNITY MEETING

Meet members of the Hodges Square Village Association and share your thoughts for community improvements at this welcoming pizza party. Hear more about the neighborhood including:

- ♦ Historic District Nomination
- ♦ Gold Star Bridge Construction
- ♦ Under 95 Art Project

Thursday, April 21, 2016
Winthrop Elementary School
74 Grove Street
New London, CT 06320

6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
FREE—Includes pizza and drinks



PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Hodges Square neighborhood is being evaluated for possible inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district. Connecticut has over 50,000 historic properties listed in the National Register, including the New London County Courthouse, the Eugene O'Neill House, and the New London Public Library. If Hodges Square is listed in the National Register, property owners may be eligible for certain economic benefits, such as tax credits. The review of Hodges Square will take place in early 2016; we anticipate hearing the results in summer 2016.

The review is part of larger, multi-phase project being undertaken by Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to protect historic properties on the Connecticut coast. The SHPO is working with organizations such as New London Landmarks and the Hodges Square Village Association as part of this project. "We are pleased to work together with the city, local preservation organizations, and residents to identify additional historic properties in New London, a city with a rich heritage," said Douglas Royalty, architectural historian with the SHPO office.

Archeology and architectural history Consultants Goodwin & Associates will be researching and assessing the historic Hodges Square neighborhood and will share its findings this summer at a public meeting. Neptune Park will also be considered as a new historic district. Updates about both projects will be shared by New London Landmarks in the future.

Currently, there are twelve National Register Historic Districts in New London plus one local historic district (Starr Street). If you own a home in any of these neighborhoods, you are eligible for historic tax credits. If you are unsure if your house is in a registered district, please contact New London Landmarks at 860-442-0003 or email info@newlondonlandmarks.org

Historic Tax Credits Presentation

Learn about historic tax credits from Chris Duprey of Crosskey Architects on Saturday, April 2, 2016 at This Old Home Show. He will talk about the process and how they used them for several construction projects. Homeowners Rick and Kathleen Barrett will also share their experience with tax credits used for their residence in New London.

Event details on page 6.



HODGES SQUARE VILLAGE ASSOCIATION



Fountain Ribbon Cutting
Cathi Strother & Forrest Sklar



Hodges Square Before Fountain



Hodges Square Fountain 1905

HSVA MILESTONES**2013****Amenities added!**

Installed four benches, two bicycle racks, six planters, and two trash receptacles

2014**Hodges Square clean-up!**

Organized by HSVA and fifty students from Connecticut College and Coast Guard Academy. The project included plantings and installation of planters as well as painting some building facades and the retaining wall behind the gas station.

2015 Spring**Parklette created!**

Designed and built by Stephen Fan, visiting architecture professor at Connecticut College, with support from students and HSVA. Located in an empty lot next to Copy Cats on Williams Street. General Woodcraft donated material, UBS donated brick, Lombardi donated lumber and Sullivan Paving removed asphalt from the area. There was also a crowdsourcing campaign to raise the funds needed for remaining supplies.

2015 Fall**Fountain Returned!**

After many years of storage at the Lyman Allyn Art Museum, the historic monument was returned to its original location in Hodges Square. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on November 24, 2015.



Former Mayor and HSVA



Sign for New Park



New Parklette

For more information or to become a member of the Hodges Square Village Association, visit the website or come to monthly meeting!

www.hodgessquare.com

860-460-3385 or info@newlondonlocalfirst.org

Meetings: Second Mondays of each month

5:30 p.m. at Sun Turtle, One Bailey Circle (behind Mr. G's)

UPCOMING EVENTS

40th Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 23, 2016

6:00 p.m.-8:00pm

Atrium at Harris Place

165 State Street, New London, CT

Free—Non-members welcome



*40th Anniversary
1976—2016*

There will be special recognition given to former board members and directors of the organization.

This Old Home Show featuring Kevin O'Connor

Saturday, April 2, 2016

9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Ocean Beach Park

98 Neptune Avenue, New London

\$10 admission

Free parking



*Kevin O'Connor
Host, This Old House*

Exhibitors and presentations by experts from New England including windows, paint, historic tax credits and more!

1:00 p.m. Presentation by Kevin O'Connor of *This Old House* followed by Meet-and-Greet.

www.thisoldhomeshow.com

Sponsored by: New London Harbour Towers and CityFlats, InnerGlass Window Systems, Point One Architects, Yankee Remodeler, and Dime Bank.

ENDANGERED BUILDINGS – STATUS UPDATES

Below are status updates on endangered buildings in New London:

Lighthouse Inn—City council granted preferred developer status to Michael Datillo of Water's Edge Resort & Spa. Negotiations between City and developer to be made on price, abatement, design, etc. and discussed in March at public hearing.

Garfield Mill—developer is working on restoration plans.

City Hall—entire building will be renovated in late-2016 after RFP process for contractors ends.

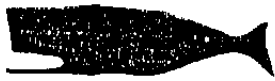
Post Office—Plans are afoot to renovate the entire building but it is also possible that some city offices may relocate to space on the upper floors during the renovation of City Hall.

Union Station—NewPort Architecture, a firm who specializes in historic preservation is restoring the 1888 building. Engineering is required for the second floor before construction proceeds on upper levels. Some windows were repaired and invisible storms added with approval of historic district commission.

Mitchell Dairy Barn—As part of master plan, campus will restore barn and use as theatre space. Plans are in development with construction in distant future. Structural improvements have already been made.

HISTORIC PLAQUE APPLICATION

DAVID BISHOP HOUSE



c1796

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 welcome any oral history or copies of old documents relating to your building you may have. Please allow approximately 6 months 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

Replacement Plaque
\$100.00

A non-refundable deposit of \$100.00 is required with this application. Balance is due upon completion.

HISTORIC PLAQUES COMPLETED

Johan H. Jensen

1929

186 Gardner Avenue

Philip and Rose Haas

1948

18 Glenwood Park South

Levi Q. Raymond

1927

519 Montauk Avenue

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.

The Preservationist

Winter 2016



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Mystic Seaport
New London Harbour Towers / City Flats
New London County Historical Society
New London Local First
New London Main Street
NewPort Architecture
Starr Street Association
Waterhouse Salon

Membership benefits include newsletter, advance notice of events, reduced member fees and satisfaction of helping support New London's rich architectural heritage!

Membership

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Website: _____

Individual Membership:

Individual \$25
Family \$35
Contributor \$75
Patron \$100
President's Circle \$500

Business Membership:

Heritage Supporter \$100
Heritage Partner \$200
President's Circle \$500

Receive our newsletters and discounts on events!

www.newlondonlandmarks.org (Join/Give)

Thank You For Your Support!