

Norwich Heritage Trust is a nonprofit Corporation formed to promote preservation and awareness of the city's heritage - architecture, streetscapes and neighborhoods - through education, design, planning and rehabilitation

# Norwich Heritage Trust



53 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut

March 1995

## NHT joins IMPACT '95

a campaign to get 500 communities to support a federal tax credit for homeowners who rehab historic buildings

A \$50,000 tax credit for homeowners who rehab their personal residence is the centerpiece of IMPACT '95 - Preservation Action's nationwide campaign to garner support for legislation to help communities with decaying building stock and flight from historic neighborhoods.

Norwich Heritage Trust has voted to join Preservation Action's campaign to get 500 communities to send resolutions to the 104th Congress supporting a bill to be submitted during the 104th Congress this spring.

The Historic

Homeownership Assistance Act of 1995, will be introduced by Connecticut's Barbara Kennelly (D) and Florida's Clay Shaw, a Republican.

As part of this campaign, Norwich Heritage Trust will submit a resolution to the Norwich City council, which, if passed, will be sent to the entire Congressional delegation of the state supporting the Historic Homeownership Assistance Act of 1995.

This act would create a 20% federal income tax credit for homeowners who rehabilitate or buy a newly rehabbed home that meets the already tested criteria of the historic credit for income-producing property.

Homeowners can get a credit up to \$50,000. Low income tax payers without sufficient tax liability to take advantage of the benefit may convert the credit into a mortgage credit certificate to obtain an interest rate reduction on the mortgage loan, under this legislation.



In addition, a developer may rehab a qualifying property and sell it to a homeowner who may apply the credit to his or her tax liability over a number of years.

This homeowner's tax credit would turn historic buildings in need of work into primary residences for people who are committed to resurrecting a neighborhood and living in it.

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Peg Pollard

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**Upcoming Events**

- Researching the history of your house will be the topic of a seminar tentatively scheduled for June. The next newsletter will have details.
- Researching your family tree is scheduled for September. NHT is looking for members or friends who would volunteer to take the audience through a step-by-step process of tracing a family's genealogy. The speaker could use his/her own research as an example
- Antique and consignment sale is scheduled for later this spring. Save your items valued at \$100 or more and NHT will sell them for you and keep 30% of the sale price for our treasury. We are seeking a site for this sale. If you can volunteer your barn or house, please call Peg at the NHT office. The next newsletter will give more details.

## City Hall nomination for National Landmark status stalled by reorganization of National Park Service

Reorganization of the National Park Service, part of a proposed money-saving program, has resulted in the abolition of the board which makes the final decision about National Landmark status for buildings and areas in the United States.

As a result, the processing of nominations for National Landmark status has been held up until a way can be found to staff and fund the decision-making board. This means that the nomination of Norwich's City Hall will be put on hold for the next few months.

In 1992, Norwich proposed the nomination to the Norwich City Council which allocated \$1500 for the project. Norwich Heritage Trust agreed to pay an additional \$500 toward the nomination and hired Jan Cunningham

*Due to a decision by the Norwich building inspector, the Designer Showhouse scheduled for this spring has been canceled.*

*Save your things for our April 29 Sale*

Associates from Middletown to prepare the application.

According to Carolyn Pltts, who administers the program for the Park Service, the competition for Landmark status for city halls is fierce because so many have already received that status. Therefore, she cannot predict the outcome of our application until she learns more about the buildings' architectural features.

Pltts said, however, that no action is being taken on any applications, even those recommended by her office, until the boards are restored.

She recommends that NHT members let their congressman know about this problem which affects Norwich directly.

*Norwich Heritage Trust has a balance of \$7526.84 in the checking account.*

*Please Note our phone number  
892-5301*

## Two fund raisers planned for spring

### Trash & treasure sale April 29 at Norwichtown Mall

Clean out your closets and attics and donate the contents to Norwich Heritage Trust for our April 29 sale. Help refill our treasury!

Norwich Heritage Trust is having a trash and treasure sale in the former Ski Loft space at the Norwichtown Mall on April 29 as part of the Mall's Community Awareness Day.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. we will be selling donated items in all price ranges. We need donations for this sale - unwanted items of any size in usable condition.

NHT urges all members and friends to bring donations to the former Ski Loft store (knock on outside door) starting April 21. Please call the NHT office at 892-5301 or Linda Crootof at 889-1413 to make sure one of us will be at the site to receive your things. If you need someone to pick up your items, we will arrange that also. No clothes are wanted.

NHT will provide receipts for those who need documentation for income tax forms.

At the sale, we will also provide information about our organization to the public.

### Norwich Heritage Trust opposes Fairlawn expansion

Because of the size of the proposed Fairlawn complex and because of its unusually close proximity to existing historic houses, Norwich Heritage Trust voted to oppose the project which was presented before the Norwich Planning Commission twice in three months.

At the November 15, 1994 and February 21, 1995 Planning Commission hearings. President Linda Crootof spoke in opposition to the Fairlawn project on behalf of Norwich Heritage Trust. The opposition focused on the scale of the development and its distance from existing houses (less than 50 feet in one case). NHT did not oppose the idea of a nursing home on the property.

The planning Commission voted against the proposal on Nov.15, but voted in favor of a revised plan on Feb.21.

### Antique & consignment sale later this spring - date TBA

Save your unwanted antiques, fine furniture and other items worth more than \$100 for our antique and consignment sale scheduled for late spring.

We are seeking a location for this sale which will include some dealers also. We will take your high ticket items on consignment. Sell them, and keep 30% commission for our treasury.

This will be our last fund raising activity before fall and we need help from members and friends.

If you have a building, garage, barn or house which you would be willing to let us use for this event, please call us at 892-5301.

Let us sell your furniture, decorative items, and antiques for you. Norwich Heritage Trust will put the proceeds to good use, and you will dispose of your items without losing your privacy.

Please mention this event to your neighbors who may want to sell some high ticket items.

The next newsletter will provide the time and place for this event.

## Connecticut Historical Commission under attack

Under Governor Rowland's reorganization plan for state government, the Connecticut Historical Commission would lose its independence. Rowland would make the commission a subdivision of the State Library.

NHT has sent a letter urging alteration of this plan to Rep. Steven Mikutel (Appropriations Committee) and to Sen. Catherine Cook (Education Committee). Both of these committees will review the proposed changes for the new administration.

NHT believes the Connecticut Historical Commission should maintain its independence as it has for the last 40 years.

Executive Director Peg Pollard attends Connecticut Preservation Action meetings to keep NHT abreast of legislative developments.