

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

November 1995

Windows '95 to increase awareness of Norwich's architectural riches

Windows '95, a contest to encourage area residents to note the architectural features of Norwich's historic buildings, will run for four weeks in The Bulletin starting the first Sunday in December.

Each week photos of a series of windows from Norwich buildings will appear in The Bulletin for readers to identify. Prizes will be awarded each week to the first reader to correctly identify the series. A grand prize will be awarded at end of the four weeks to the person who correctly identifies the most windows.

Norwich Heritage Trust board member Rick Crootof has taken photos of windows from notable buildings -residential, commercial, and religious - from all areas of the city.

The Board hopes this contest will prompt Norwich residents to look carefully at Norwich's treasure trove of historic buildings.

Norwich Marina owner Ron Aliano has donated four tickets to both Putt's Up Dock and the bumper rides to the contest as prizes for all four weeks of the contest.

In addition, McDermott's has donated a gift certificate; Weeds has contributed a flower arrangement; and Gulliver's Gallery contributed a gift certificate.

The Norwich Navigators are donating tickets for each week of the contest as well as a grand prize.

The first week of the contest will

feature windows from the west side of Norwich, followed by Norwichtown, Greenville, and churches from all over.



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Peg Pollard

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Upcoming Events

- **Renovating, restoring, and decorating your old house** will be the first topic of a series of seminars scheduled for February 22. The next newsletter will have details.
- **Placement of McDonald's sign** on Town St. is being investigated by NHT member Russ Verstege. The sign appeared without notice on a pole near the Johnson Home in September. We hope to have a report for members in the next newsletter about placement of commercial signs in historic areas (and this one in particular).
- **Building survey update** is planned for early 1996. We need members to volunteer to drive to parts of Norwich included in our surveys of historic buildings and update the surveys. You will note the condition of the exterior as well as any changes made since the survey. New NHT member Betsy Peterson has volunteered to lead this project. Call 892-5301.

Cemetery tour draws 100 on Walking Week-end - David Oat leads walk for NHT

The colonial burying ground in Norwich-town was the site of Norwich Heritage Trust's contribution to Walking Weekend, sponsored by the Northeast Connecticut Visitors District on Columbus Day weekend. This is part of an effort to highlight the Quinebaug Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor.

David Oat of Ledyard donated his Sunday afternoon to leading a tour of 17th and 18th

century grave markers in both the "old" and "new" sections of the burying ground.

Executive Director Peg Pollard and her husband Jim Baird assisted on the tour.

Norwich's Ellen Wilson contributed her manuscript (with photo illustrations) on grave-stone artists who worked in this cemetery.

Visitors on the tour included Norwich residents as well as people from as far away as Putnam.

NHT endorses plan to move fountain downtown

Tom Wendland's proposal to move a 19th century water fountain back downtown from its location at Chelsea Parade was endorsed by the NHT board at its Sept.30 meeting.

Wendland plans to restore the fountain and place it in a Victorian style park across from the Liberty Tree cafe. The fountain originally stood in Franklin Square. Photos show both horses and people drinking from the fountain (from different bowls) which also had a gas light at the top.



Mugs depicting Norwich's Steamer Chelsea (as shown above) in 1899 are available from Norwich Heritage Trust for \$5. They are on display at Burr's which is selling them for us in the Norwich-town Mall. Profits will support our organization. Please buy some for yourselves and as gifts.

Executive Director's Report

by Peg Pollard

In September I represented NHT at two meetings that gave me insight into the current status of preservation in Connecticut and nationally. Needless to say, there is a mix of success stories and causes for alarm.

1. Connecticut Preservation Action This group is the political action committee that watchdogs Connecticut's historic preservation efforts or attempts to weaken existing provisos. On the agenda for September were the following:

1. Thanks to support from Northeast utilities, the state's Main Street program has expanded and additional communities are taking advantage of the resources available to them locally and from Washington. Recently, a Connecticut review committee awarded funding to New London, Simsbury, Torrington, and East Hartford to begin work on a Main Street plan. Since Norwich already has a plan for a Main Street program, the did not apply for consideration. 2. A federal conference committee is discussing the budget for historic preservation activities, and the outlook is not good for maintaining it at its present level or even close to it. The House of Representatives would cut it by 50 percent in 1995 and to zero in 1996. The Senate version phases out funding over the next five years. Stay tuned.

2. National Trust for Historic Preservation/ Connecticut Historical Commission.

These two organizations invited me and the new executive directors of Middletown and New Haven to a September 19 meeting at the Whitfield Museum in Guilford. The round table discussion of our communities' concerns and interests and what the two larger groups can do to assist us proved very beneficial. I came away with renewed enthusiasm for my state and national staff counterparts and with some information on Norwich's place in historic preservation. Did you

know that Norwich...

- ranks fourth in the number of Connecticut buildings listed on the National Register?
- has two local historic districts listed on the National Register?
- after New Haven, has completed more surveys of city districts than any other city or town in the state?
- is a Certified Local Government and is eligible for funding from federal, state, and local organizations for special historic preservation projects?
- has participated in the following state and federal protection activities: historic resource survey, certified local government status, national register listings, state register listings preservation plan, demolition delay ordinance, state scenic road designation, local historic district/property commission, local historic preservation trust, municipal preservation planner, municipal historic assessment deferrals?

The meeting's sponsors sent us back to our communities with an imperative message to share with our boards and members. "We must pay attention to our threatened resources above all other activities. This must be the number one priority for all historic preservation organizations."

Editor's note: Our Executive Director, Peg Pollard, appeared on WICH on October 25th to talk about Norwich Heritage Trust and about our sale of Chelsea Steamer mugs to benefit NHT.

In addition, she has been calling members who have not yet renewed.

NHT is looking for a historic building to celebrate as a site for a fund raising cocktail party. Call 892-5301 if you have a suggestion.

Please renew your membership today!

Save your trash and treasure items for our spring sale. Thank-you.