

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 phone 892-5301

November 1996

Norwich Heritage Trust celebrates - a private holiday open house at Weeds Dec. 1 at noon

Norwich Heritage Trust members and guests are all invited to a free open house at Weeds, the cultivated florist, on December 1 from noon to 2 p.m.

Located on the Norwichtown Green, Weeds has invited our membership to a private holiday event with gourmet food and drink on the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

This will be a time to socialize with friends, meet our new executive director, and browse through Weeds' offerings.

Susan Lamb (from The Golden Lamb Buttery) will provide guitar music and song.

On display will be holiday decorations as well as sweatshirts and Tshirts depicting 12 of Norwich's historic houses. The William Lathrop House, Michael Darrow House, Bradford Huntington House, Joshua Huntington House, Lathrop House, Rev. Joseph Tremer lot, Austin Family Homestead, Dr. Phillip Turner House, Curtis Cleveland House, Christopher Huntington lot, Joshua Lathrop House, and the Joseph Carpenter House are all silk-screened on shirts.

Our hosts, Dennis Beauregard and David Thomas, will provide the refreshments and entertainment.

The board members will be there to introduce you to Mary Ann Walter, our new executive director, who is helping us plan some new activities.

We will also have a limited number of free copies of the Jail Hill Walking Tour which NHT developed for Norwich fifth graders this year. We hope to revise it for adults and reprint it in 1997.

So that Weeds can plan the gourmet refreshments, we are asking members to let us know if you plan to attend and tell us how many will be in your group. Call the NHT office at

892-5301. You can also send in the membership renewal form (if you haven't yet renewed) at the back of this newsletter and fill out the part that asks how many in your party will attend the open house.

Weeds will not be having a public open house this year, so this is your chance to visit Weeds and socialize with your NHT friends on Thanksgiving week-end.



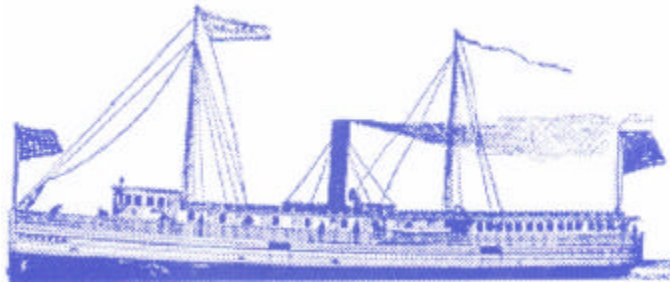
Please reply to Weeds invitation:

- **Call 892-5301**
- **Return renewal form on back of newsletter and check reply box**

Chelsea Steamer mugs still on sale for \$5 at Liberty Tree downtown

Norwich area residents who would like a souvenir of their hometown can take one home by purchasing (or receiving as a holiday gift) NHT's Chelsea Steamer mugs, which are now on sale at the Liberty Tree in downtown Norwich.

The mugs, which cost \$5, depict the Steamer Chelsea, which was the principal boat of the Norwich and New York Propeller Company in 1899. It was 150 feet long, had a 34-foot beam, and carried a crew of 21. It



could carry 600 tons.

Chelsea made three round trips per week between Norwich and New York.

The Norwich and New York Propeller Company had its own freight shed at the company's wharf which was located next to the railroad line in Norwich. The offices were located at the Prentice Wharf.

Proceeds from the sale of the mugs benefit NHT.

NHT hires new executive director

Norwich Heritage Trust has hired Mary Ann Walter to be our new executive director, replacing Peg Pollard who resigned last spring.

Mary Ann has been active in organizing history events and programs for many years. She has been program chair of the Lebanon Historical Society, an active volunteer for the Society of the Founders of Norwich, and a member of the Jonathan Trumbull Museum Committee, among others.

While working for Norwich Heritage Trust part-time, Mary Ann also works for Alan D. Loeser World Wide Auctioneers (of Fairfield, CT) as auction secretary.

She previously worked for six years for Robert H. Glass Associates, an auction house based in Sterling, and well known to many of us in Norwich. We at Norwich Heritage Trust hope to take advantage of her talents and experience in these areas as we plan some fund raising activities for the next year.

We hope all NHT members and their friends will attend our open house on December 1 at Weeds and meet Mary Ann.

Peg Pollard, our previous executive director, has joined the Norwich Heritage Trust board, and remains active in the organization.

NHT Administrator

Luise Ernest

Board of Directors

Arthur Lathrop, President
 Edward Nowicki, Vice President
 Mary Walter & Nina Barclay, Secretary
 Rick Crootof, Treasurer
 Patrice Champagne
 Linda Crootof
 William Champagne
 Robert Reed
 Beverly Raymond
 Michael Lanan
 Ann Lathrop
 Sandy Quarto
 Mary Loose
 Carolyn Rablen
 Betsy Peterson
 Martha Healy
 Frances Harkins
 Judy Hamblen
 Peg Pollard

Sample pages from our new tour booklet of Jail Hill



77 Cedar St

This is a transitional building reflecting both Greek Revival and Italianate style. The porch was added in the 1880s.

In the 1800s, this house was occupied by Irish and later a German immigrant, Gustave Geduldig, who purchased the property in the 1880s and built up a large florist business. Geduldig owned about two acres of land with eight greenhouses and employed a number of local residents. He participated in the Norwich Rose Festival where he contributed floats every year. His family

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42 Cedar St

42 Cedar Street is in a series of houses that were more modest in scale and simple in style, and were homes to many African-Americans. The black community of Jail Hill included small business owners as well as a number of abolitionists (people who wanted to end slavery). Black educators who went south after the Civil War to teach freed slaves lived here too. Why do you think these houses are plain and simple?

42 Cedar Street is part of a series of mid-19th houses where African Americans moved after the jail was built in

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Sarah Harris (shown here in middle age)

Sarah Harris attended the Prudence Crandall School for Young Girls in Canterbury. When residents protested educating blacks, the school was

Most of the homes built by African Americans were close to the jail. The black community had a number of individuals who worked for the freedom of the slaves. One such person was James L Smith, a former slave, shoemaker and Methodist minister who lived on School Street. The Harris family also lived for a short time on Jail Hill. The Harris family wanted to improve the

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Jail

Located between Cedar and Fountain Streets, the second New London County Jail was built in the 1870s. It was torn down in the 1960s. The jail contained separate rooms for men and women prisoners, as well as its own kitchen, laundry, and work area. Prisoners worked from 7 a.m. until dusk with only a half hour dinner break. They caned chairs, and reupholstered furniture. A suspender factory also used prison labor.

The Jail had an impact on the surrounding area. Property values decreased, which allowed poorer people to own land and build homes.

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the 1830s.