The City of Norwich was founded in 1659 and the friendship formed with the local Mohegan Tribe allowed the 35 Norwich settlers to purchase a tract of land nine miles square. Norwich was one of the largest cities in the Colonies during the 18th century and a center of wealth, commerce and influence. Norwich is the home to important figures that played a role in the Revolutionary War such as Christopher Leffingwell – a purveyor of provisions for the Continental Army, Samuel Huntington – signer of the Declaration of Independence, President of the U. S. under the Articles of Confederation and Governor of Connecticut, and perhaps most notably, Benedict Arnold, one of this country’s most infamous and internationally recognized traitors, who was a talented commander and was Washington’s trusted General in the Continental Army until 1779.

In addition, Norwich has a rich, diverse and largely untold African American story. David Ruggles, a native from Norwich, participated in the Underground Railroad and the National Register Historic District Jail Hill Section of Norwich was home to many notable African-Americans. During the Industrial Era, the mills in Greeneville and Taftville attracted many workers, including immigrant laborers who stayed and made Norwich home. The impressive Ponemah Mill towers over the small village of Taftville and is a testament to Norwich’s significant impact on the lucrative textile industry. Today, The City of Norwich is the largest city in Eastern, CT with over 40,000 residents and its rich and diverse history showcases its impact and contribution to the formation of the United States of America.

**Famous Norwich People**

- **General Benedict Arnold**, infamous Turncoat
- **William Buckingham**, Governor of Connecticut
- **Frances M. Caulkins**, Historian
- **Lafayette Foster**, Senator and Acting Vice President
- **Sarah Harris**, attended Prudence Crandall’s school
- **Governor Samuel Huntington**, Signer of Declaration of Independence & First President of the U.S. under the Articles of Confederation
- **Wally Lamb**, Best Selling Author
- **Edwin H. Land**, Inventor of the Polaroid Camera
- **Samson Occom**, Mohegan Preacher
- **Edith Carrow Roosevelt**, First Lady
- **Harry Rossoll**, Artist of Smokey Bear
- **David Ruggles**, Abolitionist
- **Ellis Bailey**, Artist
- **Lydia Huntley Sigourney**, Famous Poet
- **John Fox Slater**, Industrialist
- **James L. Smith**, Escaped Slave
- **Sachem Uncas**, of the Mohegan Tribe
Norwich contains over 300 years of architectural examples—from Colonial through Neo-colonial.

Please adhere to posted speed limits, especially in residential areas.