

THE NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020



Prepared by:  
Regan Miner, Executive Director  
Norwich Historical Society  
March 22, 2021

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## CURRENT OFFICERS

William Champagne, President  
Richard Pascal, Vice President  
Jessica Suplee, Treasurer  
Sandra Soucy, Secretary

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Beit, Membership Chair  
Jayne Michalek  
David Oat  
Joseph "Joe" Smith  
Virginia Valace  
Vivian Zoë

## STAFF

Regan Miner, Executive Director

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*We'd like to extend our warm appreciation to Laura Hobart for her service on the board. Laura stepped off the board this past year. We thank Laura for her service and wish her all the best!*

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# REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND

In Memory of Jason Vincent  
(1974-2020)

The Norwich Historical Society was shocked and devastated to hear of the passing of Jason Vincent. Jason served on our board for many years and he had such a passion for telling the City of Norwich's stories. He was instrumental in building a robust Walktober program in Norwich and laid the groundwork for many projects, such as the Norwich Heritage & Regional Visitors Center and the Walk Norwich Trail system.

Jason was an integral member of the Uncas Leap Steering Committee and he was passionate about turning the site into a heritage park for residents and visitors to enjoy. Jason was a firm believer in partnerships and played a key role in getting all of the Norwich Heritage Groups to collaborate with each other. Jason was a problem solver, a big thinker, and had a can-do attitude that inspired everyone.

His profound loss will be felt for years to come; he was truly a champion for Norwich. Jason was a colleague, mentor, and friend to everyone at NHS. We extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathies to Jason's family and friends. NHS is honored by the family's decision to direct donations to the organization in his memory. The Norwich Historical Society will do our best to honor his legacy and move the projects that he cared about forward.



# LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dear Member,

I hope you and your loved ones continue to remain healthy and happy during these very trying times.

2020 was a difficult year for many and NHS joined many other organizations in "pivoting" our programming to a virtual platform. NHS was fortunate to receive support from Chelsea Groton Bank and partner with the Last Green Valley to create virtual tours of our popular walking tours. All of our virtual experiences are on our NHS and Walk Norwich websites.

The ongoing global pandemic did not prevent our important rehabilitation work on the c. 1772 Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop and the c.1763 David Greenleaf House. The ongoing restoration of these properties is a part of a larger partnership formed by the Society of the Founders of Norwich (SFN) and NHS to improve upon existing heritage tourism sites in Norwich.

This past year, the Carpenter Shop received a new cedar roof, repaired the chimney using an eighteenth century mortar recipe, repaired the rear fieldstone foundation, installed a new period-style bulkhead, a French drain and new gutters were installed to mitigate drainage issues, windows and clapboards were repaired and painted, and a new energy efficient heating system was installed. In early 2021, a new handicapped accessible bathroom was completed using material salvaged from an eighteenth century farm house slated for demolition in Montville.

Our Phase 1 preservation work on the David A. Greenleaf House is also ongoing. This past summer saw the clearing of the property of brush and an archaeological survey was performed to prepare for future site work. Further, the Fall saw the building painted and the windows repaired or replaced with custom wood windows. There will be more exciting updates to announce regarding this project in 2021.

During this challenging time, we want to thank our members for their continuous support over the years. Please check out our website at [norwichhistoricalsociety.org](http://norwichhistoricalsociety.org) and like us on Facebook to see our updated virtual content. We hope you stay safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you at a future program in 2021.

Sincerely,  
Regan Miner, Executive Director





## ABOUT NHS

Formed in 2001 by Bill Stanley and Peg Wilson, the Norwich Historical Society seeks to **preserve, protect and promote** the rich history of Norwich, CT. We are a registered 501(c)(3), non-profit organization run by a part time Executive Director and a volunteer board of directors.

Over the past few years, the Norwich Historical Society launched a number of initiatives designed to strengthen Norwich's heritage tourism efforts such as opening the Norwich Heritage & Regional Visitors' Center and launching the Walk Norwich Trail system which is a series of historically themed self-guided walking tours.

## VISION AND GOALS

The vision for the Norwich Historical Society includes activities that will promote community engagement through greater historical and cultural understanding of Norwich's diverse past. NHS will be a critical historical resource for adults and children alike. The continued success of the Norwich Heritage and Visitors' Center, comprehensive public and youth programs, and expanded offerings of walking tours will help solidify NHS' important role.

Advocacy of historic preservation of Norwich's past will be a core organizational priority and will ensure that the community's fragile antiquity is saved for posterity. NHS will help share and preserve Norwich's rich history through education, information, and advocacy. NHS will be known and recognized throughout the city as a heritage and tourism leader whose efforts help to celebrate local history while bringing people and organizations together.



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

Despite the global pandemic, we were able to accomplish many things in 2020. Below is a brief snapshot of these accomplishments.

01

## PEASE CALKINS HOUSE

NHS helped secure a buyer to save the c. 1659 Pease Calkins House from demolition.



02

## HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECTS

NHS continued our partnership with the Society of the Founders of Norwich to restore the c. 1772 Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop and rehabilitate the c. 1763 David Greenleaf House.



03

## VIRTUAL TOURS

NHS partnered with the Last Green Valley to create virtual tours of many of our popular Walktober experiences.



04

## VIRTUAL PROGRAM

NHS partnered with The Lafayette Trail to host a Zoom Lecture on Lafayette's 1824 visit to Norwich.



# CONTINUED...



05

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

NHS partnered with Otis Library and Norwich Free Academy to give distance learning presentations on local history to Norwich students.



06

## CT FREEDOM TRAIL

NHS partnered with the Ellis Walter Ruley Committee to list the Ellis Walter Ruley Memorial Park on the Connecticut Freedom Trail.



07

## WALK NORWICH TRAILS

NHS partnered with the City of Norwich Public Works Department to install our interpretive signage for the Freedom Trail and the Millionaires' Triangle Trail.

# 2021 ROADMAP

01

## 8TH GRADE LESSON PLAN

Continuing our partnership with the Norwich Public Schools system and the Norwich Branch of the NAACP to create distance learning materials and lesson plans for Norwich's 8th grade students based on the story of James L. Smith who escaped slavery on the Underground Railroad and created a new life for himself in Norwich in the years before the Civil War.

02

## VIRTUAL TOURS

Create professional virtual tours of the Norwich Freedom Trail and the Millionaires' Triangle Trail.

03

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Continue our 2021 Winter Virtual Lecture Series from January - April 2021

04

## PRESERVATION PROJECTS

Recently we formed a partnership with the owner of the c. 1750 Diah Manning House with the goal of restoring yet another historic structure in the Norwichtown Historic District to be opened to the public.

05

## HISTORIC BUILDING RESTORATION PROJECTS

Continue ongoing projects at the c. 1772 Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop, the c. 1763 David Greenleaf House, the c.1789 East District Schoolhouse and the c.1783 Dr. Daniel Lathrop Schoolhouse

06

## EXPERIENCE HISTORIC NORWICH

Create a heritage tourism plan for the City of Norwich



# PARTNERSHIPS

As a local historical society and non-profit organization, partnerships are the lifeblood of our organization. Thank you to the great organizations we've had the pleasure to work with throughout 2020.



SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT  
**CULTURAL COALITION**



Department of Economic and  
Community Development  
State Historic Preservation Office



# 2020 BY THE NUMBERS

A consolidation of fiscal year 2020's revenue

	Jul '19 - Jun 20	Jul '18 - Jun 19
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income		
Contributed Income		
Annual Appeal	5,287.86	4,895.00
Business Contributions	100.00	4,507.63
Donations	7,601.23	5,359.00
Membership Dues	1,994.16	2,300.14
Total Contributed Income	14,983.25	17,061.77
Earned Income	25.00	250.00
Fundraising Events	1,781.52	2,546.36
Grants		
Emancipation Trail Grant	0.00	17,145.06
Energy Grant	0.00	133,000.59
Private Grants	21,316.00	12,450.00
State Grants	9,908.33	0.00
Total Grants	31,224.33	162,595.65
Merchandising	70.14	471.71
Norwichtown Burying Grou...	0.00	4,652.16
Program Income	1,638.58	1,075.00
Total Income	49,722.82	188,652.65
Interest Income	793.89	1,322.60
Total Income	50,516.71	189,975.25
Gross Profit	50,516.71	189,975.25
Net Ordinary Income	50,516.71	189,975.25
Net Income	50,516.71	189,975.25



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

## Elsie A. Brown Fund



Department of Economic and  
Community Development  
State Historic Preservation Office

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT  
CULTURAL COALITION



CHAMBER of COMMERCE  
EASTERN CONNECTICUT



Norwich  
Public Utilities



THE 1772 FOUNDATION



CThumanities

Chelsea Groton Bank

Norwich has a rich history of native sons, daughters, and a plethora of historical sites. Helping to preserve and promote the story of these local treasures is a daunting task. Would you help us to keep the progress of the Norwich Historical Society moving forward into the future? Visit [www.norwichhistoricalsociety.org/sponsor](http://www.norwichhistoricalsociety.org/sponsor) to become a supporter of the Norwich Historical Society.

## CONTACT US

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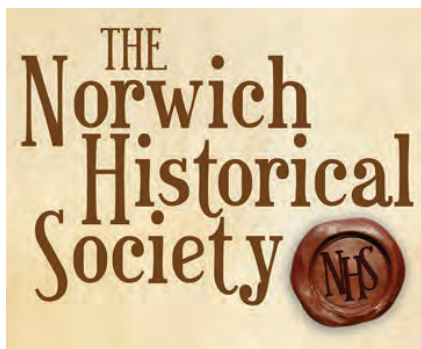
860-886-1776

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For more information visit:

[www.norwichhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.norwichhistoricalsociety.org)

[www.walknorwich.org](http://www.walknorwich.org)



The Norwich Historical Society seeks to  
preserve, protect, and promote the rich history  
of Norwich, Connecticut