

THE NORWICH HISTORICAL SOCIETY


ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021




Prepared by:
Regan Miner, Executive Director
Norwich Historical Society
March 28, 2022

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT



In the spirit of truth and equity, it is with gratitude and humility that we pay tribute to the Mohegan Tribe, the original stewards of the land where the City of Norwich now stands. Norwich can trace its origins to the year 1659, when Chief Uncas gave a gift of 9 miles square of his native homeland to the immigrant people surrounding him. The Norwich Historical Society recognizes the town's debt to that landmark event of centuries ago and acknowledges the encroachments which resulted in the eventual dispossession of the Tribe's land.



The descendants of Uncas continue to live and work beside us in the present and will be among us in the generations that follow. We now work toward greater awareness of the inequities of history, most especially the destruction of the Tribe's burying grounds which resulted in the establishment of a memorial grove dedicated in 2008. As we move forward to the future, let us not forget the past so that we can build an inclusive and equitable location for all those who come to occupy what was once solely Native land.

CURRENT OFFICERS

Eric Beit, President

Jayne Michalek, Vice President

Jessica Suplee, Treasurer

Sandra Soucy, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Champagne, Past President

Tammi Flynn

Miria Gray

David Oat

Joseph "Joe" Smith

Derell Wilson

STAFF

Regan Miner, Executive Director



We'd like to extend our warm appreciation to our treasurer, Jessica Suplee, for her service on the board. Jessica is stepping off the board this year. We thank Jessica for her service and wish her all the best!

LETTER TO MEMBERS



Dear Member,

Thank you so much for your continuous support of the Norwich Historical Society. I hope you and your family remain well. 2021 continued to be a challenging year yet despite the continuous difficulties the pandemic brought, NHS was able to accomplish many of our goals.

In 2018, the Norwich Historical Society began the early phases of developing our "Historic Norwich" tourism plan. We met with key stakeholders, presented to the city council, and we were awarded a study/planning grant from CT Humanities. In 2019, we began work with our chosen consultant and we were making good progress. Unfortunately, the pandemic ended our positive momentum in 2020 and the project was on hiatus. Now in 2022, we finally finished our grant-funded plan and can now begin the first steps of our initiative.

Our long-range goal is to establish an outdoor museum within the authentic "living neighborhood" of Norwichtown, dedicated to interpreting the history of Norwich. Our plan is to create and market a "Heritage Triangle", to include a group of heritage and cultural destinations, while positioning the Norwich Heritage & Regional Visitors' Center as the "gateway" to sites such as Slater Memorial Museum and the Uncas Leap Heritage Park.

The long-range goal is to create a vibrant collection of sites and exhibits enriched by programs and events and nearby dining and retail opportunities, thus enabling us to keep visitors occupied in Norwich for several hours, if not a full day. Our first step is to make the c.1763 David Greenleaf House and Leffingwell House Museum a "campus" where the c. 1675 Leffingwell House Museum will be the "museum" space and the c. 1763 David Greenleaf house will be the handicapped accessible "multipurpose event space" for rotating exhibitions, workshops, events, and more.

Our target date for a "visitor ready" Historic Norwichtown is 2025. This is a significant date for heritage tourism, marking the 250th anniversary of the start of the Revolutionary War and the 350th anniversary of the original building of Norwichtown's landmark Leffingwell Inn. The United States will commemorate its 250th (or "Semiquincentennial") anniversary in 2026. Time is of the essence in preparing for participation in local and statewide celebrations. Heritage tourism can be a vehicle to address a host of issues affecting Norwich's competitiveness, identity, quality of life, and prosperity. Stay tuned for more updates.

Please check out our website at norwichhistoricalsociety.org and like us on Facebook to see our updated virtual content and upcoming events. We hope you stay safe and healthy and we look forward to seeing you at a future program in 2022.

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 Regional 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

Below is a brief snapshot of our accomplishments this past year.

01

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Continued our partnership with the Society of the Founders of Norwich to rehabilitate the c. 1763 David Greenleaf House. Further, we completed a conditions assessment of the c. 1750 Diah Manning House. Lastly, we installed HVAC at the c.1789 East District Schoolhouse



02

VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES

In collaboration with the Connecticut League of History Organization, NHS offered a virtual winter lecture series based on topics from the Walk Norwich Trails between January – April 2021. The lectures are available for viewing on our website.



03

VISITORS' CENTER

Opened the Norwich Heritage & Regional Visitors' Center after being closed due to the pandemic. Further, we installed a new western red cedar shingle roof on the building.



CONTINUED...



05

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

NHS partnered with East Lyme Middle and High School to provide field trips for students on the Norwichtown Green and the Colonial Burying Ground. Further, NHS created lesson plan and a short video on the life of escaped slave, James L. Smith, for Norwich's 8th grade students.



06

PROGRAMS

NHS hosted numerous programs such as the Samuel Huntington Wreath Laying Ceremony in partnership with the Norwich Area Veterans Council, Walktober, and the Antient Ghosts of Norwich tour.



07

PROJECTS

NHS finished our "Historic Norwich" Heritage Tourism Plan. We installed wayfinding signs for the Walk Norwich Trails. Lastly, we partnered with Public Works to repair monuments in the Yantic Cemetery.

2022 ROADMAP

01

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Work on strategic planning and ensuring NHS is a diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization.



02

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Continue our work at the c. 1763 David Greenleaf House and begin capital improvements on the c.1750 Diah Manning House.



03

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Create videos on the Freedom Trail and the Millionaires' Triangle.



04

PROGRAMS

Host a summer internship program at the Norwich Heritage & Regional Visitors' Center and open the Visitors' Center in tandem with the Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop next door.

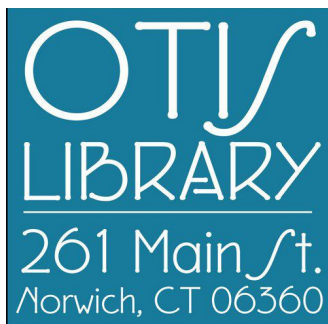


PARTNERSHIPS

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 2021.



SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT CULTURAL COALITION



Department of Economic and
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office



2021 BY THE NUMBERS

A consolidation of fiscal year 2021's revenue

9:29 AM
03/22/22
Cash Basis

Norwich Historical Society Inc Revenue July 2020 through June 2021

	Jul '20 - Jun 21	Jul '19 - Jun 20
Ordinary Income		
Income		
Income		
Contributed Income		
Annual Appeal	6,974.48	5,287.86
Business Contributions	2,205.25	100.00
Donations	9,361.66	7,601.23
Membership Dues	1,117.99	1,994.16
Total Contributed Income	19,659.38	14,983.25
Earned Income	0.00	25.00
Fundraising Events	3,164.85	1,781.52
Grants		
Energy Grant	32,546.66	0.00
Federal Grant	10,600.00	0.00
Private Grants	11,160.00	21,316.00
State Grants	43,736.80	9,908.33
Total Grants	98,043.46	31,224.33
Merchandising	539.21	70.14
Program Income	9,214.03	1,638.58
Total Income	130,620.93	49,722.82
Interest Income	98.04	793.89
Total Income	130,718.97	50,516.71
Gross Profit	130,718.97	50,516.71
Net Ordinary Income	130,718.97	50,516.71
Net Income	130,718.97	50,516.71

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 to become a supporter of the Norwich Historical Society.

CONTACT US

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Norwich, CT 06360

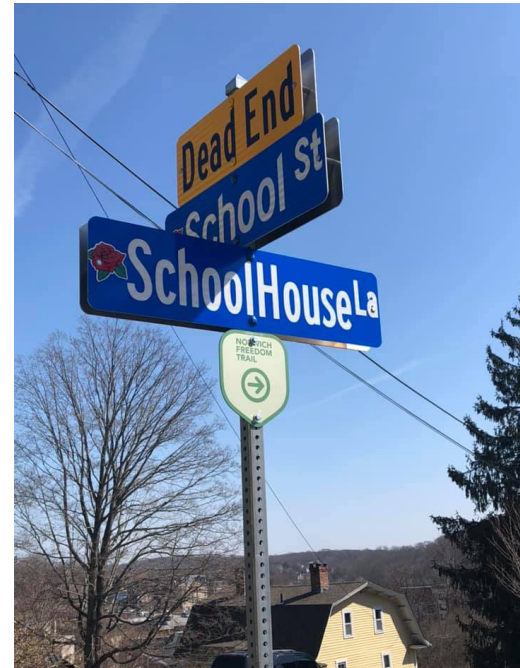
860-886-1776

info@norwichhistoricalsociety.org

For more information visit:

www.norwichhistoricalsociety.org

www.walknorwich.org



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