

Historic & Cultural Resources

Culture is “a shared, learned system of values, beliefs and attitudes that members of society use to interpret the world and relate to one another and the built and natural environments.”¹²³ Culture typically refers to visual and performing arts, historic preservation, heritage, humanities, and film. Tourism, which occurs “when an individual takes a trip outside of his/her usual environment for a short period of time,”¹²⁴ often depends on access to a community’s historic and cultural resources.

This chapter of the community inventory identifies Enfield’s defining historic and cultural resources. It outlines issues that may be preventing the community from effectively protecting its historic and cultural resources and using them to create economic development. The chapter also briefly describes the framework for historic preservation at the federal, state and local levels. A reference list of available preservation tools (awards, funding sources and regulations) will be included in the implementation section of the Plan.

Historic Preservation & Culture Policies

Role of the Federal and State governments

The National Park Service, a branch of the Department of the Interior, is the agency charged with enforcing the country’s historic preservation regulations; promoting the best treatment for buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts with historic value; and distributing public funds for protection and enhancement of formally recognized historic resources.

Federal regulations set the standard for historic preservation throughout the United States, but not all buildings, structures, sites, objects and districts with historic value are subject to these standards.

Compliance with federal standards is mandatory if a project in which a federal agency is involved will impact historic resources, or if federal funds and tax credits are used.¹²⁵ The four standards for the treatment of historic properties are:

- **Preservation** - maintain the property as it was evolved over time, protecting certain features and materials from damage and stabilizing those that are in poor condition
- **Rehabilitation** -retain the historic character of the property while allowing different uses, certain alterations or additions
- **Restoration** - return the property to its appearance at a given point in time by removing evidence of other periods
- **Reconstruction** - re-create parts of a property that no longer exist for interpretive purposes

¹²³ Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism. Strategic Plan 2005-2008. Pg. 9

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ When Standards Are Regulatory. Retrieved on June 25, 2009 from http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standards/standards_regulatory.htm

Detailed information about these standards is available at http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standards_guidelines.htm More publications offering technical preservation guidelines are available at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/publications.htm> An array of technical and financial assistance programs is accessible through the NPS's Heritage Preservation Services at <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/index.htm>

The most significant recognition of a historic building or site is listing in the National Register of Historic Places. A property can be listed in the Register if it meets certain age, integrity and significance criteria, such as being at least 50 years old, maintaining original appearance, and having been associated with significant events, activities, architectural or engineering achievements, landscapes or people of the past.¹²⁶

State Historic Preservation Board, a branch of the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism, reviews applications for National Register nomination.¹²⁷ The State Historic Preservation Council works on day-to-day issues like establishment of local preservation districts, preventing unreasonable demolition of National Register properties, and visually marking places with historic significance.¹²⁸ Properties that are listed on the State Register receive special consideration under the State Building and Fire Codes, ADA, and Lead Poisoning Law. Properties that are listed in the National Register are automatically listed in the State Register.¹²⁹

State & Local Plans

State Conservation and Development Policies Plan of 2005 - 2010

The State of Connecticut recognizes the value of historic properties in local communities. The variety of architectural styles present in a community defines neighborhoods and gives them a distinct “sense of place and permanency.”¹³⁰ The state also understands that historic properties, due to their architectural value and historic significance, attract people with a wide range of interests, allowing communities with well-preserved historic areas to profit from tourism. For these reasons, the state encourages municipalities with declining urban neighborhoods to view historic properties in their full potential. The plan says that historic buildings “can become a focal point for reviving blighted areas... [and] older homes and structures that have been designated on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places can be an asset in helping to create neighborhood investment.”¹³¹ With proper recognition and management, historic properties can make greater economic contributions.

¹²⁶ Where to Start (How to list a property). Retrieved on June 25, 2009 from http://www.nps.gov/nr/national_register_fundamentals.htm#benefits

¹²⁷ About Us. Retrieved on June 25, 2009 from <http://www.cultureandtourism.org/cct/cwp/view.asp?a=2127&q=293822&cctPNavCtr=|#49219>

¹²⁸ About Us. Retrieved on June 25, 2009 from <http://www.cultureandtourism.org/cct/cwp/view.asp?a=2127&q=293824&cctPNavCtr=|#44406>

¹²⁹ State Register Fact Sheet. Retrieved on June 25, 2009 from <http://www.cultureandtourism.org/cct/cwp/view.asp?a=2127&q=413220>

¹³⁰ Office of Policy and Management, State of Connecticut. Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005-2010. Pg. 27

¹³¹ Office of Policy and Management, State of Connecticut. Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005-2010. Pg. 71

The Plan addresses historic preservation issues in its policies regarding conservation areas. It is state policy to protect historic resources by avoiding structural development on a site or building, except if the proposed development is consistent with the preservation value of the site or building. In addition, any properties within a state-designated Historic Area, including state and National Register Historic Districts must conform to the guidelines or standards established for that district.¹³²

Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Strategic Plan 2005-2008

The Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism (CCT) is a state agency that resulted from the consolidation and reorganization of several individual arts, culture and tourism agencies. It works in partnership with the state's five tourism regions, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Connecticut Humanities Council. The Commission's Strategic Plan clearly defines the new agency's mission to:

- Market Connecticut to business and leisure travelers
- Develop and promote the arts
- Recognize, protect, preserve and promote historic resources
- Interpret and present Connecticut's history and culture, and
- Promote the state as a film location

These activities aim to improve the quality of life and economic vitality in the entire State of Connecticut. One of the key ideas expressed in the Strategic Plan is that historic and cultural resources make extensive contributions to economic development. In fact, the Plan recognizes that Connecticut has many "enviable assets...that [can] build stronger, more diverse and vibrant communities... [and] contribute to the overall economic success of the state." The challenge is to get people to realize the value of the resources in their community, and to make local historic and cultural resources much more visible as part of the entire state's heritage.

Consequently, the Plan says the state's tourism efforts will be focused on culture. One of the objectives is to evoke pride and educate residents about the wealth of cultural opportunities in Connecticut, by creating an identity campaign that is capable of generating economic gains at the local level. To do this, the state proposes to increase access to marketing expertise and resources. It plans to provide support, funding, coordination, communication, regulatory oversight, marketing, promotion, fulfillment, advocacy, and research services to local government and industry. Major campaigns that will highlight the state's historic and cultural resources will use: advertising, public relations, online marketing initiatives, direct mail, specialty publications (including Connecticut Vacation Guide, Official Tourism Map, and Special Events Calendars), and a tourism hotline and website.

Building Quality Communities: Historic Preservation in Connecticut

The State of Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism published its federally-mandated state historic preservation plan in 2005. The Plan creates an argument for the positive impacts of historic preservation on an individual's and a community's sense of identity, neighborhood pride, spirit, quality of life, and prospects for economic progress. It explains how historic preservation projects within urban historic districts have contributed significantly to their economic, social, physical, and aesthetic

¹³² Office of Policy and Management, State of Connecticut. Conservation and Development Policies Plan for Connecticut 2005-2010. Pg. 6

revitalization. It presents numerous examples of successful historic preservation projects completed across Connecticut, and concludes that:

- historic preservation projects create 5 to 9 more jobs than new construction for every \$1 million of expenditures
- historic building rehabilitation allows vacant buildings to be reused and returned to the tax rolls
- historic preservation projects increase property values near the project site
- rehabilitated historic areas attract reinvestment
- heritage tourism creates economic development
- for every dollar the state invests in promoting tourism opportunities, it generates a return of \$51 from the private sector

In addition to explaining the benefits of historic preservation and heritage tourism, the Plan lists the types of historic resources that are most at risk in Connecticut. These include buildings, structures and objects related to: Industrial heritage, urban landscapes, rural landscapes, transportation things (scenic roads and bridges), and cemeteries. Finally, the Plan lists the Commission on Culture’s goals and strategies to develop quality communities in Connecticut by enhancing local heritage resources.

The Economic Impact of the Arts, Film, History and Tourism Industries in Connecticut

The State of Connecticut recognizes that there are opportunities to “increase economic and other benefits by promoting cultural events and preserving and interpreting settings that display Connecticut’s cultural heritage”. A state economic impact study describes the impact of tourism activities in the state. The following table provides information related to the impact of various kinds of tourism attractions within the River Valley Region, which includes the Town of Enfield.

Table 44 Tourism Figures within the River Valley Region	
Visitors to:	River Valley Visitors
Travel and tourism attractions	3,826,589
Historical attractions, venues & institutions	1,226,333
Arts attractions, venues & institutions	1,230,575
Visitor Total	6,283,497
Source: Center for Economic Analysis, University of Connecticut and Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. Table I-7: Connecticut Vacation Guide Reported Visitors by Tourism Region. The Economic Impact of the Arts, Film, History and Tourism Industries in Connecticut. December 2006. Pg.15	

Town of Enfield 1999 Plan of Conservation and Development

The Town of Enfield has a history that dates from 1630. The diversity of people that have settled here had an impact in the amount and style of buildings that have been developed over the years. Today, the Town faces many challenges in maintaining that diversity and number of historic properties in good conditions. Along with that, it is struggling to maintain traditional neighborhoods in good shape. For this reason, the Plan includes a series of neighborhood revitalization strategies to guide residential and commercial rehabilitation and revitalization in conjunction with historic preservation. This neighborhood strategy is specific to three neighborhoods that have special historical role in the community: Thompsonville, Hazardville, and Enfield Street. A summary of each strategy follows:

Thompsonville - Enfield's 1999 POCD described many of the issues faced in the Thompsonville neighborhood. The village continues to have scattered buildings in need of repair and renovation, and several in need of serious rehabilitation or even demolition. It explained that the neighborhood lacked a retail identity that could give it a competitive market position to attract more residential and commercial development. Part of the difficulty in Thompsonville's ability to attract development is that the nearby mall offers more competitive retail facilities. This makes commercial reuse in Thompsonville a hard sell. Other problems include pedestrian safety issues crossing Route 5, lack of public transportation and lack of adequate off-street parking. The neighborhood's many institutional uses were described as one of the village's strong points as it has helped maintain the area's stability.

Neighborhood revitalization accomplishments from 1992 to 1998 in Thompsonville include: increased occupancy in Bigelow Commons, improved access and directional signage from I-91, improved landscaping and lighting throughout the neighborhood, completion of several private rehabilitation and preservation projects, installation of a walking and biking path, and construction of a boat launch on the Connecticut River.

Some of the Plan's recommendations going forward in 1999 were marketing the neighborhood to commercial activities that could play a distinctive niche, supporting reuse of landmark buildings, and implementing a main street management model. The Plan also suggested focusing on increasing occupancy and enhancing existing residential and commercial properties, and placing less emphasis on infill development.

Enfield Street - The middle section of Enfield Street is a historic district, and most of the Plan's recommendations address this section. Accomplishments from 1992 to 1998 include reduction of residential zoning densities to maintain character of the neighborhood and limit traffic, and creation of a local historic district to ensure that modifications to historic properties are consistent with preservation standards. 1999 Plan recommendations include dedicating historic buildings to municipal or non-profit functions that will not have a detrimental impact to the building after rehabilitation improvements have been made by the Town.

Hazardville - The Hazardville Center is designated as a "neighborhood conservation area" in the State POCD. The state identifies neighborhood conservation areas as places where it "proposes to support homeownership, improved energy efficiencies, historic preservation, removal of unsafe structures, improved delivery of public services, maintenance of residential continuity of the neighborhood and removal of environmental hazards."¹³³ However, as of 1998, the area had not yet been designated a local historic district. The Plan recommended creating a Hazardville Special District Zone similar to the one used in Thompsonville, and mentioned that there was a proposal to preserve and publicize historic areas and structures related to the Hazard Powder Works.

Enfield's Historic & Cultural Resources

The Town of Enfield is rich in history and still retains many buildings from its past. Various sources of information were used to verify this, and over 150 historic resources are currently identified as possessing some historical value. Unfortunately, the Town of Enfield does not have an official record of buildings, sites or districts that have been given local, state or federal historic designation. The only exception is the Enfield Street Historic District. The Town's Planning and Zoning Department retains the original list of properties that were identified as historic or contributing to the district's historic character. The Department has made efforts to periodically rectify this list, but maintaining an accurate record of the

¹³³ Town of Enfield. 1999 Plan of Conservation and Development. Pg. 95

ownership status and condition of the properties within the district is nearly impossible because there is no administrative process that requires property owners and Historic District Commission to report maintenance and construction activities in the district. The Town also lacks a comprehensive survey of all properties or sites that have potential for local, state or federal historic designation regardless of their inclusion within a district.

Historic Districts

Many communities throughout the US have at least three “layers” of historic districts: local, state and federal. The Town of Enfield has four historic districts listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places, but only one of them is also a local historic district. A local historic preservation commission is supposed to enforce local, state and federal historic preservation regulations, but the Town does not have such a commission. The Town’s only historic preservation commission is the Enfield Street Historic District Commission, which can only govern preservation issues within that district.

A local historic preservation commission is supposed to review and determine the impact of physical alterations to the exterior of a historic property or demolition of a historic property that visible from the public right-of-way. The commission also issues opinions for consideration by other commissions, such as the Planning and Zoning Commission, regarding the impact of new construction within a historic district. The purpose of this is to ensure that any alterations, construction or demolitions will be preserve or be consistent with the character of the district. Local historic districts, however, are not authorized to regulate the color or use of a historic building. Use is regulated according to local zoning.

Enfield Street Historic District

Enfield Street is the historic north-south route from New Haven to Massachusetts and Vermont (I-91 is the modern route). The District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The National Register-designated portion covers the area extending from 1106 to 1492 Enfield Street.

The Historic District Commission will have completed preservation guidelines for the Enfield Street Historic District, which are due for consideration by September 2009. The guidelines will educate residents about the kind of work on the exterior of a historic property that requires a permit application and a Certificate of Appropriateness. It will explain the difference between normal repair and maintenance and significant exterior improvements, and the standards for exterior work. The guidelines are expected to clarify residents’ questions and alleviate the perception that the district is excessively regulated.

Notable resources in the area include:

- **Enfield Congregational Church** – Located at 1295 Enfield St. It was built in 1849 and is still the tallest building in Enfield. It was the site of the famous sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God."
- **Enfield Street Grade School** – Located at 1314 Enfield St. Built in 1954.
- **Enfield Town Meetinghouse / Old Town Hall** – Located at 1294 Enfield St. Built in 1775, today it is used as a museum and as the headquarters of the Enfield Historical Society. Listed in the National Register in 1974.
- **Fire House** – Located at 1296 Enfield St. Built in 1955.
- **Martha Parsons House Museum** – Located at 1387 Enfield St. Built in 1782 by John Meacham as a parsonage. Used today as a museum owned by the Enfield Historical Society.
- **Thomas Alcorn Elementary School** – Located at 1010 Enfield St. Built in 1925.

- **US Postal Service Station** – Located at 1430 Enfield St. Built in 1810 for Ephriam Potter on land owned by John Pease.

Enfield Shakers Historic District

In 1788, a Shaker community was established in Enfield after multiple acts of resistance from townspeople who objected to their religious practices. The Enfield Shakers, as they are known today, were the only Shaker community in Connecticut, but they had a notable presence due to their garden seed industry and their efforts to promote agricultural progress in Connecticut. The Shaker population, however, decreased substantially by the early 1900s, and those left moved away from Enfield in 1917.

The Enfield Shakers Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. The District roughly encompasses the area bounded by Shaker, Taylor and Cybulski Roads.¹³⁴ District boundaries include all remaining buildings and farmland; but only fifteen of the original structures remain. Many of the remaining buildings are currently used as private residences that are not open to the public, while others are on property owned by the State of Connecticut Corrections Department. All of the remaining buildings are considered significant because they have fairly well-preserved exteriors and because they represent all the different aspects of Shaker life.¹³⁵ Even though the buildings are not open to the public, the district is included in the National Park Service's Shaker Historic Trail travel program.¹³⁶

The Town of Enfield Planning and Zoning Department is working with the state and private property owners to find resources and alternatives to protect the property and resources within it. One of the main threats to the sites is encroaching industrial development southeast of the district, which may compromise visual continuity within the district.

Remaining resources in this district are:



Figure 39 Enfield Shakers Village ca. 1910.
The village is now the site of the Correctional Institute. Retrieved on June 9, 2009 from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Enfield_CT_Shakers.jpg



Figure 39 Remaining Shaker buildings on the Department of Corrections property.

¹³⁴ http://www.cultureandtourism.org/cct/lib/cct/CT_Properties_on_the_National_Register.pdf

¹³⁵ Town of Enfield Department of Planning and Zoning. A Brief History and Self-Guided Tour of Enfield and Its Historic Resources. Preservation Week 2003.

¹³⁶ Enfield Shakers Historic District. Retrieved on June 24, 2009 from www.nps.gov/history/Nr/travel/shaker/ect.htm

- The **South Family** buildings – Located near Moody and Cybulski Roads. Include several small shops, a house and barn.
- The **Church Family** farm buildings – Located near Taylor and Shaker Roads on State Corrections Department property. Includes an old meetinghouse and several barns.
- The **North Family** buildings and sawmill site – Located along Shaker Rd. about a mile west from main cluster of buildings.

Hartford Bigelow Carpet Mills Historic District

In 1828, the first carpet mill in Enfield was established. It was known as the Thompsonville Carpet Manufacturing Company, which was reborn in 1854 as the Hartford Carpet Company, and finally closed in 1971 under the name of Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company. The Village of Thompsonville where the factory was located was named in honor of Orrin Thompson, founder of that company.

Today, the Carpet Mills have been renovated and converted into apartment buildings, which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Rehabilitation of the buildings was the largest historic tax credit project ever done in the State of Connecticut.

The Hartford Bigelow Carpet Mills Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The District is roughly bounded by Lafayette St., Hartford Ave., Alden Ave., Pleasant St., High St., Spring St., South and Prospect Streets.¹³⁷ The Enfield Planning and Zoning Department has submitted an application to expand the boundaries of the Hartford Bigelow Historic District.

In the 1920s, the firm was known as the Bigelow-Hartford Carpet Company and it employed 13,500 people, making it the largest carpet mill complex in the country. The District includes approximately 150 former workers' dwellings, which were all company built and have a distinctive architectural type, such as Gothic Revival cottages from the 1840s, utilitarian tenements from the 1880s, and suburban-like development of the 1920s. These show changing trends in employee housing.¹³⁸

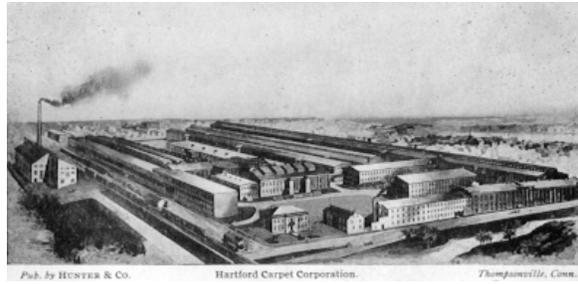


Figure 41 The carpet factory. Retrieved on June 9, 2009 from http://home.att.net/~mkm-of-enfct/EHS/EHS_carpet.html



Figure 41 Thompsonville's carpet factory redeveloped as an apartment complex known as Bigelow Commons.

¹³⁷ http://www.cultureandtourism.org/cct/lib/cct/CT_Properties_on_the_National_Register.pdf

¹³⁸ Town of Enfield Department of Planning and Zoning. A Brief History and Self-Guided Tour of Enfield and Its Historic Resources. Preservation Week 2003.

Notable resources in or near the district include:

- **Bigelow Commons** – Located at 55 Main St. It is a former carpet mill factory complex comprised of 6 buildings, all of which are now apartments.
- **Casket Factory** – Located River St., west of the railroad tracks.
- **Site of ferry landing** – Located at the end of Main St. Used today as a public boat launch, it used to be a way for people to move between Enfield and Suffield.
- Powerhouse ruins
- Enfield Manufacturing Company stockinet mill

Hazardville Historic District

In 1835, black powder processing operations were taking place in Powder Hollow. In 1843, Col. Augustus Hazard (the man after whom the Village of Hazardville was named) established the Hazard Powder Company, which replaced Loomis, Denslow and Company. The Hazard Powder Company supplied a significant amount of the gunpowder used during the Civil War, but after decades of declined production, it closed in 1913 after a major explosion. Today, much of the Powder Hollow area in which manufacturing activities took place has reverted to open space.

The Hazardville Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The District's boundaries are roughly CT 190 and CT 192, and include the Powder Hollow area.¹³⁹ The Enfield Planning and Zoning Department is currently in the process of digitizing the district's exact boundaries.¹⁴⁰

The value of the Hazardville Historic District lies in the fact that it retains its character as a small 19th century village. While few buildings lack individual distinction, most of them still have the original building materials, workmanship and architectural style of the time. The area's setting still retains much of its integrity, although many modern elements have slightly altered its appearance. Furthermore, the Powder Hollow area has significant archaeological potential.¹⁴¹



Figure 43 Hazardville Center ca. 1906.
Retrieved on June 9, 2009 from
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:
HazardvilleCTMainStEastviewCA1906.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:HazardvilleCTMainStEastviewCA1906.jpg)



Figure 43 Hazardville Center in early Spring of 2009. Hazard Avenue appears to be a busier street today than in the early 20th century.

¹³⁹ Retrieved on June 24, 2009 from http://www.cultureandtourism.org/cct/lib/cct/CT_Properties_on_the_National_Register.pdf

¹⁴⁰ Personal communication with Roger Alsbaugh. July 15, 2009.

Notable resources in or near the district include:

- **The Hazardville Institute** – Located at Hazard Ave. and Maple St. Built in 1869, it was used as a public hall, and abandoned in the 1970s. It was saved from demolition by Town of Enfield and the Hazardville Institute Conservancy through a 99-year lease. Currently undergoing interior rehabilitation. It is listed in National Register of Historic Places.
- **Hazardville United Methodist Church** – Located at 330 Hazard Ave.
- **Connecticut Valley Tobacconist** – Located at 337 Hazard Ave. It used to be the old Hazardville Pharmacy.
- **Hazardville Grammar School** – Located at 359 Hazard Ave. Built in 1864, today it houses a child day care center.
- **St. Mary's Episcopal Church** – Located at 383 Hazard Ave.
- **Powder Mill Barn** – Located at 32 South Maple Rd. It was a horse barn of the Hazard Gunpowder Company. It was turned into a square dancing hall in 1959 by Ralph Sweet, and it is currently used for special events and scheduled activities.
- **Scantic River Rapids Park** – Located along the Scantic River, with access on South Maple St. It was the site of the Hazard Gunpowder Company. The foundations of approximately 21 buildings from a complex originally of 200 buildings still remain.

Cemeteries

Enfield's cemeteries can also be considered historic resources. Some gravestones date from 1696 and the area had several well-known stone carvers. Groups like the Enfield Historic Society, the Enfield Cemetery Association and various individuals have documented the history of Enfield's cemeteries, gravestones, stone carvers and their clients.¹⁴²

- Enfield Street Cemetery
- Hazardville Cemetery
- King Street Cemetery
- Thompsonville Cemetery
- Old Hazardville Cemetery
- Holy Cross Cemetery
- Muslim Cemetery
- Old St. Patrick's Cemetery
- St. Adalbert's Cemetery
- St. Bernard's Cemetery
- St. Patrick's Cemetery
- Thompsonville

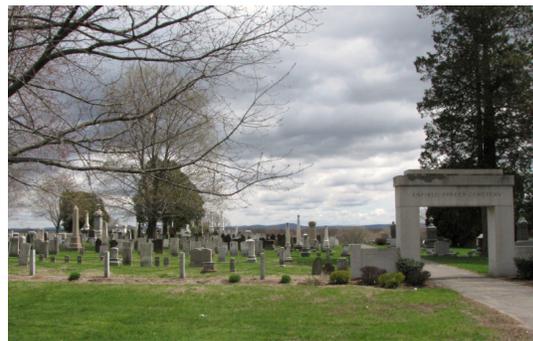


Figure 44 Enfield Street Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Enfield.

¹⁴¹ Town of Enfield Department of Planning and Zoning. A Brief History and Self-Guided Tour of Enfield and Its Historic Resources. Preservation Week 2003.

¹⁴² <http://www.enfield-ct.gov/content/686/106/default.aspx>

Current Conditions & Issues

There are archaeological resources in Powder Hollow. The Town of Enfield has been involved for over 30 years with the state in efforts to protect that part of the Scantic River.

At the moment, the US Department of the Interior has the official record of all National Register listed properties in Enfield. The State Historic Preservation Council has the original National Register nomination package, but Town Planning and Zoning Department Staff mention that they have not been able to get anyone to send a copy of that package. Documentation is also supposed to be on file with the Town Clerk. Other than this, there is no official record of historic properties in the Town of Enfield. The Planning and Zoning Department maintains the record of the Enfield Street Historic District up-to-date and has rectified the records with the assessor's parcel and lot information. However, the information about style and date built on file in the assessor's database is not based on extensive historic research about the properties.

The historic preservation process is not integrated into the building code and permit approval process so the town lacks an administrative process and formal guidelines and regulations about the proper treatment of historic properties. The planning department is involved in historic preservation in an ad-hoc manner, issuing statements and recommendations to the appropriate commissions if it becomes aware of a project that might have an impact on historic resources within a historic district.

GIS data of the historic district and its boundaries are not available. The Planning and Zoning Department has been working with the GIS Administrator in the Assessor's office to delineate the districts' boundaries. The district boundaries are generally 250 ft from the right of way, but not including the right of way. The boundaries expand from that occasionally to accommodate a particular property.¹⁴³

Certified Local Government Status

The Town of Enfield is applying for Certified Local Government status with the National Park Service and the state office of historic preservation. The program has four requirements: establish a preservation commission, create a historic preservation ordinance, maintain an active survey of local historic resources, and participate in the National Register process. There may also be additional requirements in the state. Once the Town is certified, it will have access to technical assistance and funds for:

- staff and commission member training,
- public outreach materials,
- architectural, historical and archaeological surveys,
- design guidelines and preservation plans, and
- rehabilitation and renovation projects.¹⁴⁴

Town staff indicated that this certification will help the Town institutionalize a process for protecting historic properties. Once this is accomplished, it will allow the Town to address preservation issues in an

¹⁴³ Personal communication with Roger Alsbaugh, Assistant Planner, Planning and Zoning Department, Town of Enfield. July 15, 2009.

¹⁴⁴ National Park Service. CLG Opportunities. Retrieved on June 9, 2009 from http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/clg/CLG_opportunities.html

integrated manner, allowing impact to historic properties to be considered with economic, environmental impacts, smart growth and transit-oriented development issues. The application has the support of all Town commissions.

Findings

- A book summarizing the highlights of Enfield's history declared: "Most people pass by these buildings never knowing their stories, unaware of the town's rich and varied history."¹⁴⁵ This statement reflects what many Town residents have expressed throughout this planning process, and underscores the need to promote the Town's historic and cultural resources locally and regionally.
- There is a need for a townwide survey of historic properties. Only one district, the Enfield Street Historic District, has a comprehensive listing of historic properties. In addition, no historic agricultural resources inventory is available in Enfield.
- There are very few historic buildings on the state and national register of historic places. Listing on these registers would enable property owners and the Town to secure funding for restoration work.
- Several studies and plans, as well as the public input conducted throughout this planning process, indicate that historic preservation regulations are not enforced in Enfield. This leads to inappropriate changes to historic buildings, which lead to loss of architectural integrity and deterioration of neighborhood character.
- The Enfield Shakers Historic District is engulfed by industry. Although maintaining the privacy of households that currently reside in the historic buildings, the Town can take measures to ensure that the architectural integrity of the buildings and remaining landscape qualities of the area are protected for future generations.
- Natural resources in Enfield are not systematically considered part of the community's heritage, despite the historic use of various waterways and topographic features in the Town's industrial development.
- The Town has initiated an effort to attain the Certified Local Government status, which will enable it to qualify for numerous historic preservation programs at the state and federal levels.
- The Town does not have a commission that can rule on preservation issues throughout the entire town.

¹⁴⁵ Miller, Michael K. *Images of America: Enfield*. Acadia Publishing. 1998. Pg. 7