

At first glance, West Hartford's history consists of its 20th-century development as a beautiful suburb of Hartford. 300 years have passed, however, since the first settlement. During that long passage of time, a rich array of people, places and events have figured in the town's life.

This brochure highlights 41 buildings and sites that are significant in the town's past. We hope that residents and visitors alike will visit these places, many of which are marked with commemorative signs or plaques, and learn more about West Hartford's history.

The location of each site is indicated on the map above by a number, which is keyed to the list of addresses and brief descriptions that follows.

Additional information about these sites is available at the West Hartford Public Library, 20 South Main Street (and branches on Starke Road and New Britain Avenue), and the Noah Webster Foundation and West Hartford Historical Society, 227 South Main Street.

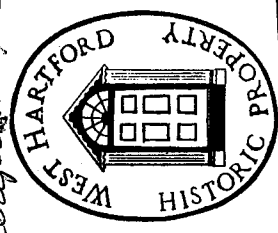
West Hartford Historic Sites:

1. Goodman Green, at Farmington Avenue and South Main Street. Given in 1747 by Timothy Goodman to the West Hartford parish of the Congregational Church. It remains the focal point of town life.
2. Site of the First Three Meeting Houses of the First Church of Christ, Congregational (built c.1712, 1744 and 1834). Northwest corner of Farmington Avenue and North Main Street.
3. The First Noah Webster Memorial Library, 7 North Main Street. Dedicated in 1917, it was the first building in town to be erected solely as a library.
4. Site of Trout Brook Ice and Feed Company (office and storage warehouse), north side of Farmington Avenue, on the west bank of Trout Brook. Cutting and shipping ice was an important local industry in the late 19th century and the early 20th centuries.
5. Old Center cemetery, on the east side of North Main Street, north of Loomis Drive. The town's oldest public burying ground (1719). Purchased by the West Hartford parish in 1776, it contains the graves of many eminent former residents.
6. Old North Cemetery, on the east side of North Main Street, north of Old Center Cemetery. The West Hartford parish purchased this property in 1790 to provide additional burying ground for townspeople.
7. Allyn Steele House, 114 North Main Street, c.1775.
8. American School for the Deaf, 139 North Main Street. Founded 1816 and the oldest such school in the United States. The School moved here in 1922 from Asylum Avenue in Hartford.
9. Old Grist Mill Site, on the west side of North Main Street, north of Wyndwood Road. Thomas Morgan built a "corn mill," which was operated for many years in the 1700s and 1800s by the Morgan and Goodman families.

10. Whitman House, 208 North Main Street, c.1764-1807.
11. James Butler House, 239 North Main Street, c.1800.
12. Daniel Hosmer House, 253 North Main Street, c.1774.
13. Gurdon Whiting House, 291 North Main Street, c.1780.
14. Bishop's Corner, at the intersection of North Main Street and Albany Avenue. After the establishment of the Talcott Mountain Turnpike in 1798, the area became a business center, with a blacksmith shop, other industries, and two taverns. Goodman's Tavern was the town's first post office (1820). A short distance eastward was Joseph Bishop's tobacco warehouse and factory.
15. Moses Brace-Uriah Caldwell House, 11 Flagg House, c.1766.
16. Residence at 847 North Main Street, c.1777.
17. Hartford Golf Club National Register Historic District, encompassing the golf club and the surrounding residential area north of Albany Avenue and west of Bloomfield Avenue. Site of the Hartford area's oldest private golf club and a neighborhood of architecturally distinguished, early 20th-century homes.
18. Mount Saint Joseph Academy, 235 Fern Street. Built in 1905-1908 by the Sisters of Mercy as a Catholic girls school, it is now sensitively adapted for use as a conference center.
19. West Hill, at West Hill Drive. Formerly known as Vanderbilt Hill and the site of a huge mansion built for a son of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, it is now a community of architecturally distinguished, early 20th-century homes.
20. Friends (Quaker) Meeting House and Cemetery, 144 Quaker Lane South. The meeting was established about 1780 and is the only one in the Hartford area.
21. Elisha Seymour, Jr. House, 410-412 Park Road, c.1770.

*Mont. West Hartford
Descriptions & Travel*

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Conard High School Library
West Hartford, Conn.

THE

HISTORIC SITES OF

WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT:

A Touring Guide

Town of West Hartford 1989

Prepared by the Architectural Heritage
Committee and Hall High School
Graphics Department

22. Timothy Goodman House, 567 Quaker Lane South, c.1750-1771.

23. Site of Charter Oak Park Race Track and Fair Grounds, at the intersection of Oakwood and Flatbush Avenues. Opened in 1873, the park was nationally famous for horse racing. For many years after 1906, the Connecticut State Fair grounds and the Luna Amusement Park were located here.

24. Site of Talcott's Woolen Yarn Mill and Vine Hill Farm, on Quaker Lane South near Trout Brook. The mill complex included a mill (1828), fulling shop and storage houses. This property later was part of the Beach family's Vine Hill Farm (1859), one of the area's most noted dairy businesses.

25. Burgoyne Elms Site, at the intersection of New Britain Avenue and Quaker Lane South. Elmwood residents planted elm saplings here to celebrate the American capture of General John Burgoyne's British army at Saratoga, New York, in October, 1777.

26. Samuel Stanly House, 1168 New Britain Avenue, 1773.

27. Thomas O'Hara Goodwin House and Goodwin Pottery, 1198 New Britain Avenue. This Federal-style house was built in 1821 by an early leader in Elmwood's long flourishing pottery industry. Goodwin Brothers Pottery Company was at the intersection of New Britain and New Park Avenues

28. Sarah Whitman Hooker House, 1237 New Britain Avenue, c.1804

29. Beardsley-Mix House, 81 Rockledge Drive, c.1774.

30. Noah Webster Birthplace, 227 South Main Street, c.1748. West Hartford's most famous historic building, the childhood home of America's first lexicographer is a National Historic Landmark.

31. Asa Gillett House, 202 South Main Street, c.1730-1760.

32. Boulevard-Raymond Road Historic District, between South Main Street and Trout Brook, including adjacent properties on Ray-

mond Road. West Hartford's first modern subdivision (1896) is a neighborhood of attractive early 20th-century homes.

33. Benjamin Colton House, 25 Sedgwick Road, c.1770.

34. Edward W. Morley House, 27 Westland Avenue, 1906. Morley collaborated in measuring the speed of light (1887) and then determined the atomic weights of hydrogen and oxygen (1895). A National Historic Landmark.

35. Buena Vista Historic District, encompassing 18th-20th-century residences adjacent to the Old West School (#36) and the Stanley-Woodruff-Allen House (#37).

36. Old West School, at the corner of Mountain and Buena Vista Roads. Built in 1878 of brick because of Henry Barnard's campaign for safer school buildings. The town's oldest extant school building, it is now owned by the West Hartford Art League, Inc.

37. Stanley-Woodruff-Allen House, 37 Buena Vista Road, c.1750.

38. Metropolitan District Reservoir No. 1, on the north side of Farmington Avenue, west of Sunset Farm Road. Opened in 1867 to supply Hartford and West Hartford with pure water, this reservoir is the oldest component of the present regional water system.

39. John Wells, Jr. House, 505 Mountain Road, c.1766.

40. Samuel Farnsworth House, 537 Mountain Road, c.1790.

41. Revolutionary War Campsite, north of Albany Avenue and west of Mountain Road.

Text by Nelson Burr, Town Historian, and Gregory Andrews.