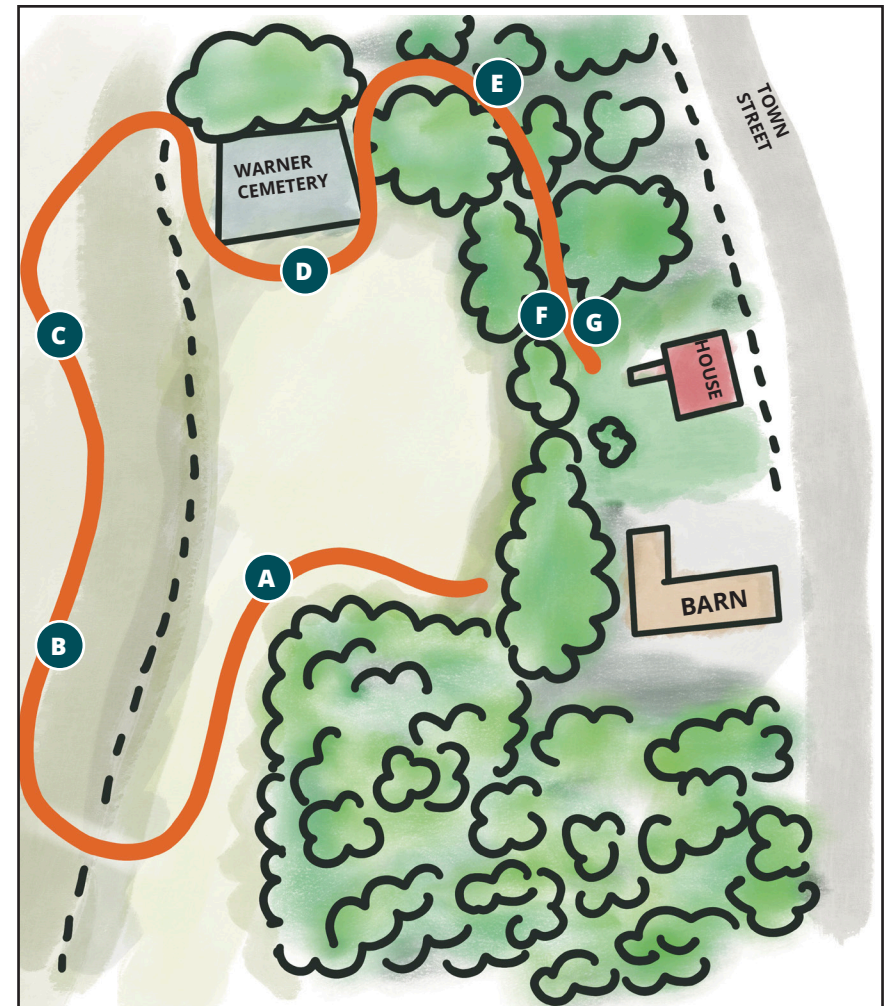


## Palmer-Warner House & Grounds Interpretive Trail Draft Text

Connecticut Landmarks seeks your feedback on signage being developed for the Palmer-Warner House in East Haddam. The map below shows locations for signs on the property, marked with stakes today. Draft text for each sign is listed inside.



### F The Vista

Frederic Palmer and Howard Metzger created a space where they could look out and see what would have existed in the 18th century when the Warners lived here. In the 40+ acres of land behind their home, they preserved the austere stone-walled fields from the property's days as a farm. Metzger placed statuary on the stone walls to create vignettes of the house when viewed from the fields.

### G The Gardens

Howard Metzger was passionate about taking care of the gardens. He planted seasonal flowers and maintained perennial plants. He had a particular fondness for the topiary sculptures he maintained. He sculpted large rabbits, dogs, frogs, dragons, and more from boxwood shrubs. Connecticut Landmarks intends to restore these whimsical sculptures in the future to honor Metzger's work.

## Thank you!

We appreciate your input as we work toward the next phase of life for the Palmer-Warner House. Please take our survey when you have a moment by visiting [bit.ly/PWtrail](http://bit.ly/PWtrail) or scanning the QR code here.



If you have any questions, contact information for Connecticut Landmarks' staff can be found on our website, [ctlandmarks.org](http://ctlandmarks.org).

# Welcome to the Palmer-Warner House!

Connecticut Landmarks is testing signs to guide you through the property and its history. Please fill out our survey afterwards to help us develop permanent signage. For now, take your time to read the signs and enjoy the property's story.

## A Who were the Warners?

In 1738, John and Mehitable Warner built the Palmer-Warner House on 1,000 acres of land Mehitable inherited. The couple raised eight children here. Their son, Joseph, was a blacksmith. He established two blacksmith shops, one across the street from this property and one approximately four miles away in Hadlyme. His son, also Joseph, took over the Hadlyme shop while his other son, Oliver, inherited both the house and the smithy across the street. Warner-made hardware can be found today on the First Congregational Church in East Haddam, as well as the Palmer-Warner House itself.

## B About the House & Architecture

The Palmer-Warner House and property has changed greatly over its 280-year existence. When Frederic Palmer and his mother, Mary Brennan Palmer, bought the property in 1936, there were at least three outbuildings on the property: likely a barn, chicken coop, and smoke house from the Warners' farm. They removed the outbuildings and opened up the summer kitchen to create the modern back porch you see today. Frederic Palmer also made many changes to the interior of this colonial house, including installing electricity, plumbing, and heat. To learn more, book a tour on our website. It's especially beautiful in the fall!

## C Frederic Palmer & Howard Metzger

Frederic Palmer and Howard Metzger met through a mutual friend in 1945 and quickly bonded over their shared interests. Metzger soon moved into the house. Their relationship would last the rest of their lives. While Palmer worked on architectural drawings inside, Metzger tended to the grounds, expressing his creativity with intricate topiary and gardens. They stored their classic cars in the barns, and their antiques and vinyl record collections still fill the home today. After Palmer's death in 1971, Metzger continued to live in the house until his own passing in 2005.

## D The Warner Cemetery

The historic Warner Cemetery is owned and maintained by the Town of East Haddam. In 1801, Daniel Warner was the first person to be buried here, and Mary P. Church was the last in 1876. Other members of the Warner family who are interred here include Oliver and Charity Warner, whose portraits you can view in the dining room of the house. Please let the Warner family rest in peace and respect the grave sites. If you have further interest in the Warner Cemetery, please contact the Town of East Haddam.

## E Frederic Palmer & Connecticut Landmarks

Frederic Palmer was a trustee of Connecticut Landmarks, then known as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society. As a member of the Structures Committee, Palmer was instrumental in the organization's acquisition and renovation of multiple properties in addition to his own home, including the Amasa Day House (Moodus), and the Butler-McCook House & Garden (Hartford). He also offered his services as a preservation architect at the Hempsted Houses (New London) and other sites. While his mother, Mary Brennan Palmer, hoped the property would be preserved, it was Frederic Palmer who ensured the Palmer-Warner House would ultimately be cared for by Connecticut Landmarks.