



A Welcoming Place for All

East Haddam's Palmer-Warner House

New exterior signage, freshened-up interiors, and a bright Pride flag welcomed visitors to the Palmer-Warner House this summer. The museum's shift to new seasonal Open Tour Saturdays, spearheaded by site administrator Lynette Fisher, embodies an important new phase of operations that complements the innovative public programs already taking place. We were excited to welcome 446 visitors for tours and events to the home Frederic Palmer and Howard Metzger made together in what they called "*the wilds of Connecticut.*"

At the Palmer-Warner House, *home is where acceptance is.* Connecticut Landmarks is honored to provide a safe space for people to build community through history. During Pride Month in June, specialty tours introduced visitors to the house's residents and explored the themes of **Equity, Unity, and Reflection.** *A Historic Timeline of Connecticut's LGBTQ+ Community*, on loan from the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History, was also on view. The month culminated in a historic **Pride Month Celebration** in collaboration with the East Haddam Historical Society. The event featured an afternoon of special guests, exhibitions, and discussions exploring our state's rich LGBTQ+ history.

Special programming highlighted the House's colonial history and landscape. In May, participants built tables in a **hands-on woodworking workshop** led by traditional furniture maker John Baron. More than 20 people visited the Palmer Cemetery in October to **explore colonial New England burial customs** with Dean Massey, an urban planning researcher at Northeastern University. In September, stone artisan, gardener, and horticulturist Andrew Pighills discussed the **evolution of stone walls** and how they fit into broader landscapes from colonial times to the present day.

The first ever **Summer Pipes & Cider** welcomed a sold-out crowd to celebrate Scottish culture on a warm September day. Guests sipped local cider from Yankee Cider Co. and embarked on a trail walk led by Coreyanne Armstrong and the Portland & District Pipers. Joined by Nathan Hale Homestead staff, attendees tested their knowledge in pub trivia and toured the House to learn about Frederic Palmer's Scottish heritage.

We look forward to welcoming new and returning guests in 2025. Stay tuned to ctlandmarks.org for next season's programming and Open Tour Days!

Connecticut Landmarks 2024 Annual Report

This print report represents a small slice of what Connecticut Landmarks has accomplished this year with the support of members and donors like you. To view our comprehensive digital annual report, scan the QR code or visit ctlandmarks.org/annualreport





Dear Friend of Connecticut Landmarks,

This season, you have joined us for signature events, family-friendly activities, community celebrations, and immersive tours at each of our eleven sites across the state. None of these high-quality experiences would be possible without the dedication of many people contributing to our goal to bring history to life. At Connecticut Landmarks, *home is where the history happens*, where legacies live, where conservation occurs, and where the people are.

In this year's Annual Report, we are highlighting the work of those people: talented staff, dedicated Trustees, enthusiastic volunteers, loyal members, generous donors, and passionate community partners who help keep *history moving forward*. As you read about this year's programming, preservation efforts, and collections updates, you will find spotlights on some of the people who make our work possible.

Since I began working at Connecticut Landmarks in 2019, I have had the pleasure of collaborating with folks who bring creativity, wisdom, and inclusiveness into every aspect of their role, even in the face of challenges. Coming to the end of my first season as Connecticut Landmarks' Executive Director, I could not be more grateful to work with our Board to lead such a talented and motivated team as we plan for next season and the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States in 2026.

To our members and donors, we thank you for your ongoing support. We hope to see you at our historic sites next season for a program, community event, or the debut of our new annual Members' Reception for our highest-level members.

Sincerely,

Robert Brock
Robert Brock, Executive Director

Deborah Ullman
Deborah Ullman, Chair, Board of Trustees



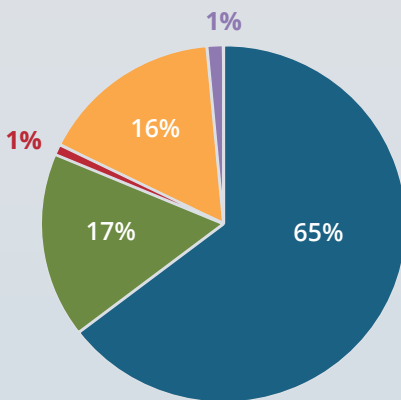
Financial Statement, March 31, 2024

OPERATING REVENUE

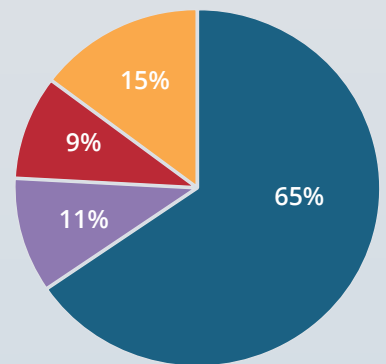
● Investment & Trust Distributions	\$872,568
● Contributions	\$226,528
● Grants	\$12,706
● Earned Income	\$219,387
● Other Income	\$19,847
Total Revenue	\$1,351,036

OPERATING EXPENSES

● Museum Services	\$1,143,900
● Restoration & Renovation	\$182,271
● Development & Fundraising	\$164,706
● Administration	\$257,436
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,748,317



FY24 Operating Revenue



FY24 Operating Expenses

Balance Sheet, March 31, 2024

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$88,149
Investments & Beneficial Trusts	\$14,110,703
Other Current Assets	\$128,988
Property & Equipment, Net	\$8,249
Total Assets	\$14,336,089

Accounts Payable	\$114,951
Line of Credit	\$74,489
Other Current Liabilities	\$32,101
Total Liabilities	\$221,541

Total Liabilities & Net Assets

\$14,336,089

Programs, Collections, and Preservation



Sue Muldoon hosts basket-making workshop at Nathan Hale Homestead.

Bringing the Past to Life

A popular series at the Nathan Hale Homestead returned this year, welcoming over 40 visitors to **pick up a tool and get crafty!** With the guidance of local artist and basket-maker, Sue Muldoon, participants made small wall hanging baskets inspired by crafts from the 18th century. During another workshop, woodworker John Baron used a combination of modern and historic techniques to guide visitors in making a wooden box modeled after a Nathan Hale Homestead artifact. The exploration into our 18th-century living series concluded with the return of Robert Lecce of Pewter Pot Fine Spiced Chocolates. Guests participated in a chocolate-making demonstration (and enjoyed delicious samples of chocolate and hot cocoa, of course). History sure is *sweet!*

Introducing Different Points of View

In a first-time collaboration, Bethlehem's Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden and Waterbury's Mattatuck Museum brought a new perspective to Caroline Ferriday's summer home during a special month-long art exhibition. The combined efforts of site administrator Peg Shimer, Erin Farley and Jocelyn Weaver from Connecticut Landmarks' collections team, and curators at the Mattatuck Museum resulted in **an outstanding exhibition featuring selections from the Mattatuck Museum's significant art and history collections.** Works exploring the themes of women, 20th-century art, and local art complemented the historic house's furniture, art, and objects. Photographs, oil paintings, and sculptures nestled among the rooms of the 18th-century home welcomed visitors to peruse the halls and discuss their significance and thematic connections to the history of the house.



Featured Artwork: Leo Manso (American, 1914-1993), *The Annunciation*, 1980; Mixed media collage. Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Edward Giobbi, 1993; 93.17.2



Joshua Hempsted House garret window restoration by Fink & Son Historic Restoration

Caring for Our State's Oldest Houses

Home is where preservation happens at Connecticut Landmarks' historic sites. At New London's Hempsted Houses, the stories we share about colonial life and northern slavery through the history of the Hempsted and Jackson families would not be possible without the structures within which they lived and worked. **Connecticut Landmarks has undertaken a significant restoration project** on the upper levels of the Joshua Hempsted House, with sections built in 1678 and 1728. With the expertise of structural engineering company DeStefano & Chamberlain, along with the guidance of Preservation Connecticut and the CT State Historic Preservation Office, we are working to control moisture, mitigate pest damage, and ensure the structural integrity of the 350-year-old house. Jim DeStefano and his team performed a structural assessment of the site earlier this year and will be working closely with us on this project. In July, two commercial-grade dehumidifiers were installed for monitoring by our collections team. Look for updates on our website, social media, and print materials, as education is a key component of this project.

View our expanded digital annual report by scanning the code or visiting ctlandmarks.org/annualreport



Front Cover: Palmer-Warner House. First Inner Page: Window workshop at Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden; Lilacs at Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden; Drummer at Hempsted Houses Juneteenth, Photo by La Chale Renee' Photography; Escapism Productions at Hempsted Houses; Students visiting a historic house. Back Cover: Assistant Site Administrator Nicole Thomas with students at Amasa Day House.



Spotlighting Staff

Museum interpreters at Connecticut Landmarks connect our visitors to the past through interactive tours, programs, field trips, and events. **Drawing on a wide range of backgrounds and interests, our museum interpreters' passion for creating unforgettable experiences through local history is fundamental to all they do.** In addition to our central office staff and site administrators, we are grateful for the more than 30 museum interpreters like Jackie Hemond, highlighted below, who foster welcoming and enthusiastic environments.

Jackie has been a librarian since 1981 and was Director of Kent Memorial Library in Suffield from 2014-2019. She is currently an interpreter at the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, in addition to serving as President and Trustee at the Suffield Historical Society. She says, **"the best part of working as an interpreter is seeing people 'connect the dots.'** Children understand that people in the past did some of the same things they do but with different tools—colonial toasters look different than modern toasters but they both do the job. Adults can see that small-town Suffield's history reflects the broader national history, like ripples in the ocean."

To discover our staff and read more interpreter stories, visit ctlandmarks.org/annualreport



A Community that Cares

Connecticut Landmarks' members are history buffs, old-home enthusiasts, lifelong learners, explorers, and nature-lovers who support local history through their annual membership.

Many of our members have been a part of our community for over a decade, such as Donald Rogers, who has been a member since 2012. Our members visit our sites and return each season for brand-new and beloved programs.

"Perhaps, the most enjoyable part of my membership is the Sunset Sounds summer concert series featuring very good jazz artists. Connecticut Landmarks is obviously well-connected in the local jazz scene. The concerts can be a total experience including outdoor music on the lawn, tours of the Butler-McCook House during intermission, and art for viewing (and buying) up in the Amos Bull House gallery. And it's all free. The Series is a not-so-hidden City of Hartford treasure. I appreciate Connecticut Landmarks' multiple programs and willingness to experiment as a historical organization."

*—Donald Rogers, PhD
Member since 2012*

Our refreshed membership program invites new members to enjoy traditional benefits, plus even more discounts on events and higher discounts in our museum shops. Membership tiers which include North American Reciprocal Museum membership not only open doors to history at our historic sites, but grant access to over a thousand cultural institutions across the nation. **Connecticut Landmarks is excited to announce the launch of our highest-level membership tiers, which offer exclusive access to an annual Members' Reception, luncheon with our Executive Director, rental discounts, private group tours for you and your friends, plus more!**

To learn more about membership and join or renew today, visit ctlandmarks.org/memberships

Connecticut Landmarks Board of Trustees

Deborah Ullman, Chair
Margaret Steeves, Vice-Chair
Joseph Grabarz, Secretary & Collections Stewardship Chair
Judith Saunders, Treasurer & Finance Chair
Michael Arseneault, Governance Chair
Elsbeth Geldhof
Donna Lynn Hilton
Carol Kardas
Leonardo Suzio
Aaron Trahan

Trustees Emeritus
Susan R. Kelly
Cornelius O'Leary

Honorary Trustees
Douglas Anderson
Christel Ford Berry
James Bowers
Deborah Davis
Jared Edwards

Beth Iacampo
James Parry
Patrick L. Pinnell, FAIA
The Hon. Robert R. Simmons
David Rhinelander
Tess Torrey
Jim Wu



Connecticut
Landmarks