



## THE OLD SAYBROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DEDICATED TO PRESERVING, PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE HISTORY OF OLD SAYBROOK

Spring, 2024

Re: Preservation Heroes: Celebrating 50 years of preservation and stewardship at 350 Main Street

*Stacy Vairo, circuit rider for Preservation Connecticut, the organization that aims to preserve, protect and promote buildings, sites and landscapes that contribute to the heritage and vitality of the State of Connecticut communities, stated "It supports preservation heroes, the owners who do the work and inspire others in their communities. They are the heroes."*

Dear friends of the Society,

Fifty years ago the Society, after 14 years of existence, purchased the property at 350 Main Street which included an acre of land and the 1767 General William Hart House. This purchase came after the years of prudent spending and innumerable fundraisers plus the generous contributions of many residents and ancestors of the descendants of original families of the Saybrook Colony. This special House was the homestead to various families until 1972 and, while all the owners took their stewardship seriously, there were many serious expenses and much work necessary to preserve and protect what was purchased.

In 2010 the officers and trustees voted to begin large projects needed to preserve and improve what was owned. Stewardship is costly but they were committed to take on this responsibility. The projects completed are outstanding examples of quality and proper preservation of which we can all be proud.

This organization does not accumulate debt. We pay as we go. Therefore, progress is slow and we still face challenges. This year we are making vast improvements to the south side of the exhibit gallery which was once a potting shed. The improvements solve many issues and are creating a wonderful environment for our visitors to immerse themselves in history. Following completion of this work, we need to plan for a new roof on the Archives Building.

As you can surmise, these improvements go far beyond what we receive in membership fees. However, we will continue the stewardship of 350 Main Street, a campus unique and flourishing that connects us to the past to help build a better future.

We are grateful to so many preservation heroes who have created this environment over the past fifty years. It is an outstanding legacy.

With gratitude and best wishes,

*Marie*

Marie

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1767 GENERAL WILLIAM HART HOUSE AND EXHIBIT GALLERY • PUBLIC HERITAGE GARDENS  
FRANK STEVENSON ARCHIVES & MARTHA SOPER RESEARCH LIBRARY BUILDING

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*The Old Saybrook Historical Society is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization*

## PRESERVATION HEROES

Former presidents Admiral Husband and Jim Platt proudly raising the American flag after the purchase of the General William Hart House 1974.

