



## DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES – PLANNING DIVISION

REPORT: 96 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06106

For consideration: January 20, 2021

### STAFF REPORT

**TO:** HARTFORD PRESERVATION COMMISSION

**FROM:** Autumn Florek, Senior Planner  
T. 860-757-9083; Email: autumn.florek@hartford.gov

**PROJECT:** 96 Main Street  
PARCEL ID: 248-556-108  
ENERGOV ID: COMM-2021-0320

**ZONE:** OS     **HISTORIC DISTRICT:** South Green National Historic District

**TYPE:** ARTICLE XII HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Sec. 28-170 through 28-221

**APPLICANT:** National Collaborative of Women's History Sites c/o Joanie DiMartino

**OWNER:** City of Hartford Parks Department

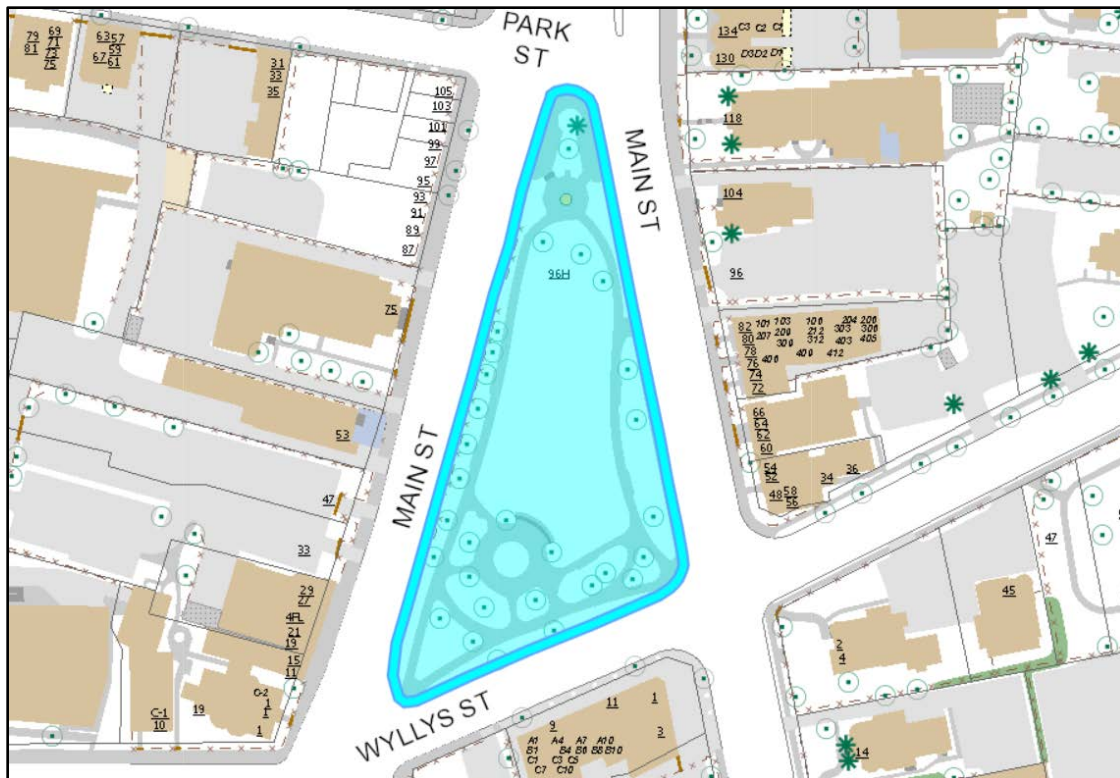


Figure 1: Location Map

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The subject site is Barnard Park (96 Main Street), which is located within the boundaries of the South Green National Historic District. The park is located across the street from the site where the writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman and her family once lived. The Gilman House, which has been demolished, once stood on Main Street, south of St. Peter's Church. The house stood near to the boundary of the surface parking lot and the bowfronted rowhouse at 130-140 Main Street.



Figure 2: Tip of Barnard Park, Source: Google Streetview, June 2019

**Proposed Project:** The Applicant proposes to install a historical marker in Barnard Park to honor the writer and women's rights advocate, Charlotte Perkins Gilman. The Applicant proposes to install the marker within the triangular space created at the fork in Main Street.

The proposed marker would be 18" x 32" and be made of aluminum. The marker has space for five lines of text with a maximum of 27 characters per line. The proposed marker would be mounted to a 7' aluminum pole.

The marker would be funded by a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation through its National Women's Suffrage Marker Grant Program. The grant program funds historical markers for the National Votes for Women's Trail from such interested stakeholders as municipalities, academic institutions, and 501(c) organizations

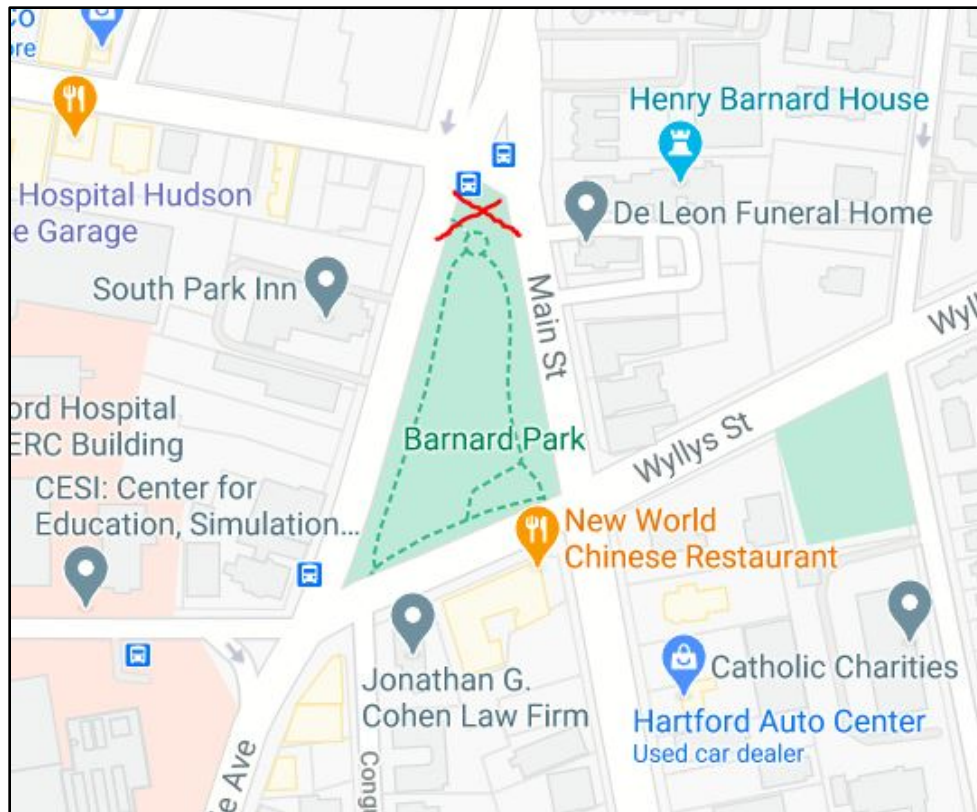


Figure 3: Proposed Site of Historical Marker

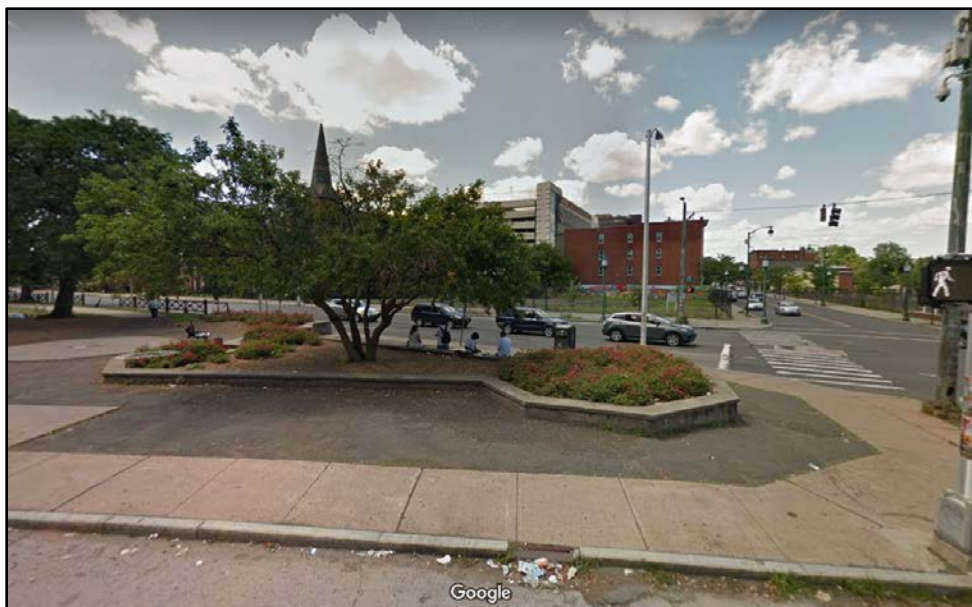


Figure 3: Image of Proposed Site for Historical Marker (Google Streetview)



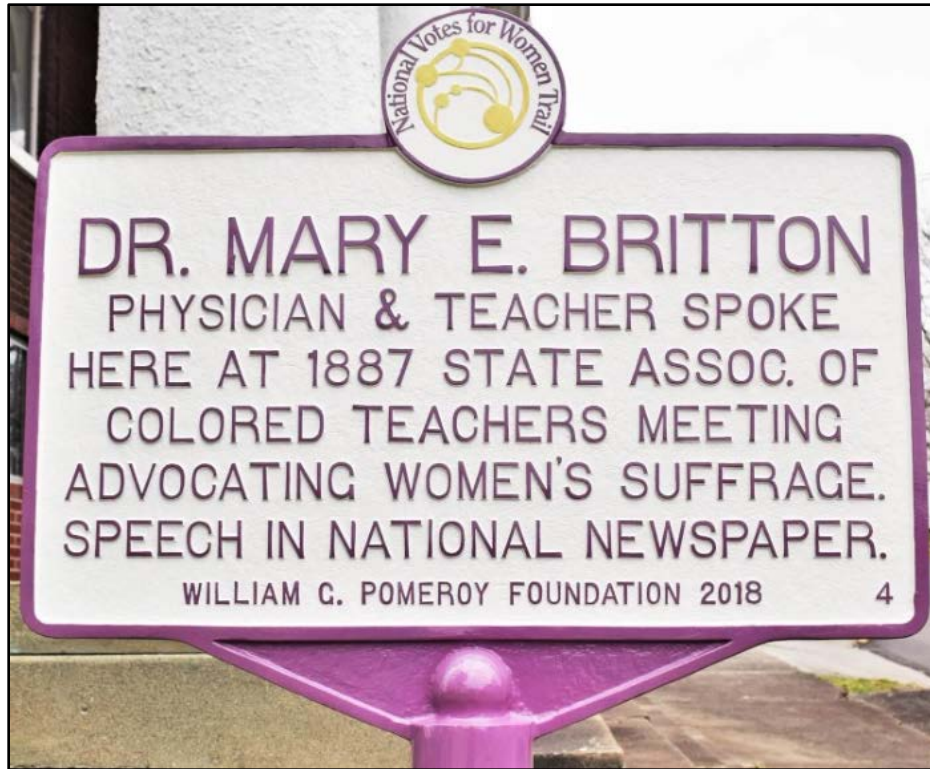


Figure 5: Historical Marker Precedent, William G. Pomeroy Foundation

### **LEGAL STANDARD**

The Commission reviews and acts upon all applications for Document of Suitability. No person or entity may, without first applying and obtaining the approval of the Commission, file an application for a demolition permit, or for a building permit for any protected property as designated in the Historic Preservation Ordinance Sec. 28-219.

### **STANDARDS SPECIFIC TO THE USE**

The commission shall adopt the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* and the City of Hartford's *Guidelines for Renovations and Additions to Historic Buildings*.

The following sections of the *Guidelines for Renovations* are relevant:

- Why Preservation?, page 1:
  - “To protect and enhance the attractiveness of the City.”
  - “To protect and enhance neighborhood character.”
- Why Preservation Guidelines?, page 1:
  - “To foster appropriate use and wider public knowledge and appreciation of areas, sites, structures, and features.”

## **FINDING OF FACTS**

**CURRENT USE:** Public Park  
**YEAR BUILT:** 1816

**PROPOSED USE:** Public Park  
**STRUCTURE:** N/A

**Particular mention in Historic nomination:** The nomination for the South Green Historic District notes the space is “a small triangular park dating back to the town's earliest years. Apex of the triangle points north, its eastern and western legs are bordered by Main Street, which splits into two sections for the purpose, and its base is Wyllys Street.”

**Current Conditions:** The proposed marker would be near the planting bed installed in the triangular section of the park adjacent to the intersection. Paved surface surrounds the planting bed.

**Nearby Conditions:** The proposed location is the portion of the park closest to the historical site of the Gilman residence, south of the existing St. Peter’s Church. The Gilman residence has been demolished and the site is currently used as a surface parking lot. Some of the other lots facing the park on Main Street are vacant.

**COMMENTS RECEIVED** (None received as of January 14, 2020)

## **ANALYSIS**

Historical markers are an important preservation tool. The proposed marker is meant to raise awareness of women’s history in Connecticut, particularly in Hartford. The proposed location in the park is next to a planting bed near where the park begins. The proposed sign is relatively small and its impact on Barnard Park would be negligible. Staff recommends approval of this application.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends approval of this application.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Completed and signed application form
2. Email correspondence
3. Image of historical marker precedent
4. Map and Location of Proposed Site
5. 1885 Fire Insurance Company map
6. Summary of National Women’s Suffrage Marker Grant Program

**REVIEWED,**

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Aimee Chambers, Director



**CITY OF HARTFORD  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION  
96 MAIN STREET  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROPOSAL**

- Whereas,** The City of Hartford Historic Preservation Commission reviewed the proposal for the proposed historical marker at 96 Main Street; and
- Whereas,** The subject site is Barnard Park, close to the intersection of Main Street and Wyllys Street; and
- Whereas,** The park is owned by the City of Hartford; and
- Whereas,** The Applicant proposes to install a historical marker in Barnard Park that honors the writer Charlotte Perkins Gilman; and
- Whereas,** The proposed marker would be funded by a grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation through its National Women’s Suffrage Marker Grant Program; and
- Whereas,** The grant program funds historical markers for the National Votes for Women’s Trail from such interested stakeholders as municipalities, academic institutions, and 501(c) organizations; and
- Whereas,** Charlotte Perkins Gilman a Hartford native and a prominent American writer and reformer; and
- Whereas,** The Gilman family residence, where the writer lived, once stood south of St. Peter’s Church, near the present-day site of 130-140 Main Street; and
- Whereas,** The proposed marker would be located close to the intersection of Main Street and Wyllys Street, across the street the historical location of the Gilman family residence; and
- Whereas,** The proposed marker would be cast aluminum; and
- Whereas,** The proposed marker would be 18” x 32”; and
- Whereas,** The proposed marker has space for five lines of text with a maximum of 27 characters per line; and

**Whereas,** The proposed marker would be mounted to a 7' aluminum pole; and

**Whereas,** The proposed work is consistent with the City's Historic Design Principles;

Now therefore Be It

**Resolved,** The City of Hartford Historic Preservation Commission hereby approves the proposed work.

Be It Further,

**Resolved,** This 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

# DDS- Planning & Zoning: Historic Review Application



Submission date: **14 January 2021, 5:03AM**

Receipt number: **120**

## Property Information

Property Address  
**Street: Barnard Park**  
**City: Hartford**  
**State: CT**  
**Zip Code:**

Zoning District: **Hartford**

Parcel ID:

Property Owner: **City of Hartford**

Property Owner's Address:  
**Street:**  
**City:**  
**State:**  
**Zip Code:**

Phone:

Email:

## Applicant

Please check if "Applicant" is the same as "Property Owner"

Name of Applicant: **Joan DiMartino**

File Date: **01/14/2021**



Address:

Street: 1 Riverbend Drive

City: Mystic

State: CT

Zip Code: 06366

Phone:

860-326-9967

Email:

joanie.dimartino@att.net

## Primary Point of Contact

Name:

Joan DiMartino

Phone:

860-326-9967

Email:

joanie.dimartino@att.net

Describe your application action(s) and provide as much detail as possible.

Proposed work:

Other: installation of historic marker honoring Hartford native Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Current materials being repaired/replaced:

Materials/products being used in work:

aluminum

Please upload all supporting materials and photographs below.

[Pomeroy Foundation.pdf](#)

[41102-NY-AllemanImageClose-300x251.jpg](#)

[web1\\_WomensTrail.jpg](#)

[Pomeroy Foundation letter Oct 1.docx](#)

## Signatures

Signature of Applicant:



[Link to signature](#)

Name of Applicant:

Joan DiMartino

Date:

1/14/21

Signature of Property Owner:

N/A

[Link to signature](#)

Name of Property Owner:

City of Hartford

Date:

1/14/21

Henry Barnard House

De Leon Funeral Home

Hospital Hudson  
e Garage

South Park Inn

ord Hospital  
ERC Building

CESI: Center for  
Education, Simulation...

Barnard Park

New World  
Chinese Restaurant

Jonathan G.  
Cohen Law Firm

Catholic Charities  
Hartford Auto Center  
Used car dealer



DR. MARY E. BRITTON  
PHYSICIAN & TEACHER SPOKE  
HERE AT 1887 STATE ASSOC. OF  
COLORED TEACHERS MEETING  
ADVOCATING WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.  
SPEECH IN NATIONAL NEWSPAPER.

WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2018

4



ROAD TO THE:

19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT

**BESSIE CRAYTON**  
AS PRESIDENT OF ALLEN  
COUNTY POLITICAL EQUALITY  
CLUB. HELPED ORGANIZE 1,500  
MARCHERS IN 1914 SUFFRAGE  
PARADE THROUGH THIS SQUARE.

WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2020

47







ROAD TO THE

19<sup>TH</sup> AMENDMENT

# ZOBEDIA ALLEMAN

1848-1940. ARDENT SUPPORTER  
OF STATE & COUNTY SUFFRAGE  
MOVEMENT. RESIDED HERE.

STATE CHAIRMAN SCHOOL  
SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE 1910.

WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2020

29

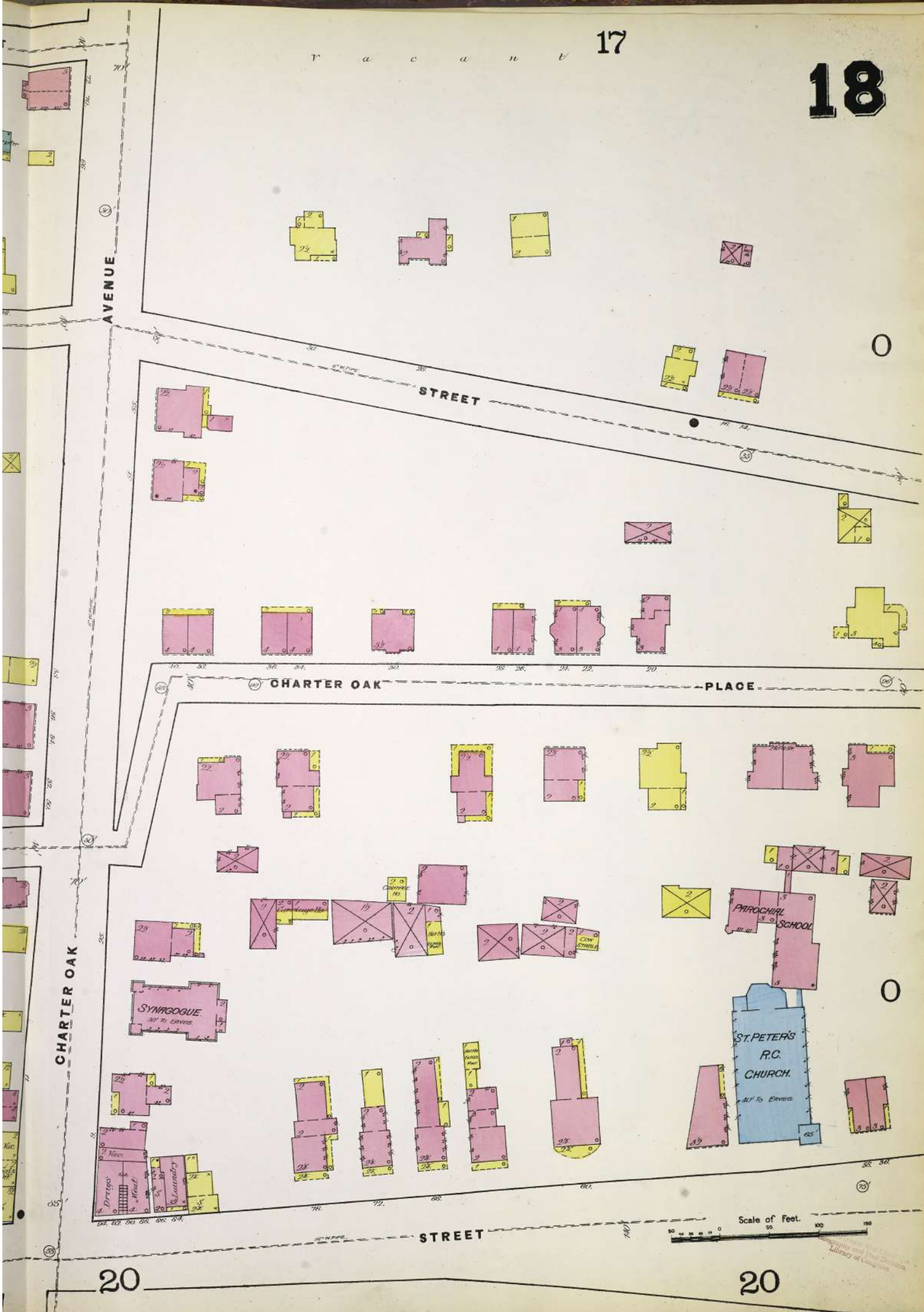






Photo: ©2018Brontrinka

### Our Mission

We are committed to supporting the celebration and preservation of community history; and to raising awareness, supporting

research and improving the quality of care for patients and their families who are facing a blood cancer diagnosis.



### Historic Signage Grants

In 2006, we established our first signage program. Since then we've added more fully funded signage programs commemorating everything from folklore to historic canals. To date, we've funded nearly 800 markers and plaques in New York State and beyond.

Benefits of historic signage include:

- preserving history
- educating the public
- instilling pride of place
- promoting historic and cultural tourism
- providing economic benefits

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter  
@WGPFoundation



### Signage Grant FAQs

#### Who can apply for a marker or plaque?

Grants are open to municipalities, nonprofit academic institutions and charitable 501(c)(3) organizations. Often these organizations will apply for signage on behalf of the property owner.

#### Can I apply for more than one historic marker grant?

Yes! You may apply for multiple markers in each grant round. You may also apply for grants from different programs.

#### What's the cost if we're awarded a marker grant?

There is no cost to you. **We fund the entire cost** of the marker, pole and shipping. You are responsible for the installation.

#### What's the application process like?

The application process is straightforward and entirely online. The first step is to visit our Foundation's website: [wgpfoundation.org](http://wgpfoundation.org), and click on historic signage. Then select your program of choice. Each program landing page has an "Apply for Grants" button. If it's your first time applying, you need to set up an account.

#### Why do some programs require primary sources?

We can all agree that markers need to be historically accurate, and the only way to ensure that is with primary sources. If the Foundation name is on the credit line, we want to assure readers that the marker was well researched and is without a doubt historically accurate.

To apply for a grant or for more information, visit [WGPfoundation.org](http://WGPfoundation.org).

Questions? Call Christy @ 315.913.4060  
or email [info@wgpfoundation.org](mailto:info@wgpfoundation.org)

## Signage Grant Programs

### Celebrating History and Cultural Heritage



Providing  
markers and  
plaques at  
no cost to you!

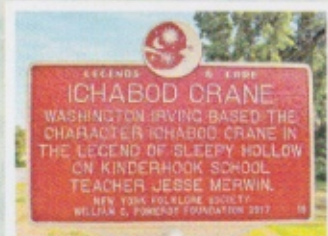
We're committed to helping  
people preserve and celebrate their  
community's history!

William G.  
**Pomeroy  
Foundation®**

For History. For Life.®



## Legends & Lore®



### NATIONAL PROGRAM

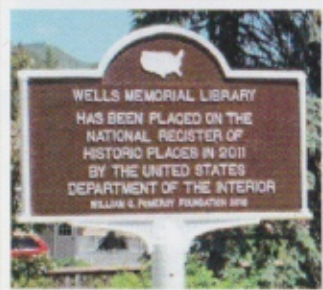
Does your community have a great piece of folklore that should be shared?

In 2015, we launched our Legends & Lore

Marker Grant Program in partnership with New York Folklore. The program is designed to promote cultural tourism and commemorate legends and folklore across the U.S.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. There is no deadline.

## National Register Signage



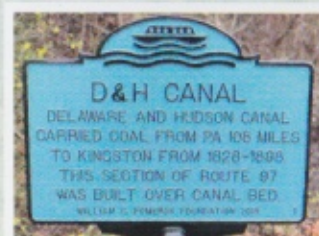
### NATIONAL PROGRAM

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Since 2013, the Foundation has provided

funding for plaques and markers to identify a property's designation.

Funding is available for public properties and historic districts through our National Register Signage Grant Program.

## Historic Transportation Canals

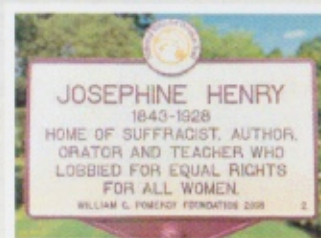


### NATIONAL PROGRAM

It's a great time to pay tribute to historic canals! We offer a national marker program commemorating canals in all 50 states.

To qualify, the historical fact about the canal must have occurred more than 50 years prior to the date of the application. Markers must be installed near existing or former canals.

## National Women's Suffrage



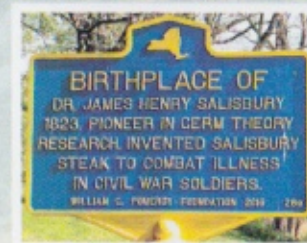
### NATIONAL PROGRAM

As we approach the centennial of national Women's Suffrage in 2020, we're excited to support a national marker program in collaboration

with the National Votes for Women Trail.

Our National Women's Suffrage Marker Grant Program commemorates the people, places or things instrumental to women gaining the right to vote in the U.S.

## NYS Historic Markers



### NEW YORK STATE PROGRAM

Our NYS Historic Marker Grant Program commemorates historic people, places or things in New York State between 1740 and 1919.

Since 2006, we've worked with countless 501(c)(3) organizations and municipalities in 53 counties across the state and have funded more than 540 markers.

## Ohio Historical Markers



### OHIO STATE PROGRAM

Our founder Bill Pomeroy has deep family roots in the Buckeye State. Researching family history has brought Bill to Ohio several times.

As a result of these connections, we partnered with Ohio History Connection to launch our Ohio Historical Markers Grant Program, available in 18 counties.



## National Women's Suffrage Marker Program

As we approach the centennial of women's suffrage in 2020, we're excited to support a National Women's Suffrage Marker Program in collaboration with the National Votes for Women Trail, a committee of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites.

This program commemorates the people, places and things instrumental to women gaining the right to vote in the United States in 1920 with the passing of the 19th Amendment.



"Dr. Mary E. Britton" marker, Danville, Kentucky.







**LUKE BRONIN**  
MAYOR

# CITY OF HARTFORD

## DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division  
250 Constitution Plaza, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Telephone: (860) 757- 9040

Fax: (860) 722-6402

[www.hartford.gov](http://www.hartford.gov)



**I CHARLES MATHEWS**  
ACTING DIRECTOR

**AIMEE CHAMBERS, AICP**  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Attn: National Collaborative for Women's History Sites  
c/o Alice Paul Institute  
P.O. Box 1376  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

To Whom It May Concern,

The City of Hartford is in receipt of a request for the location of a Suffrage Centennial Marker honoring Charlotte Perkins Gilman to be installed at Barnard Park, near the corner of Wyllys and Main Streets. Barnard Park is in the South Green National Historic District. Because the marker is to be installed at a designated property, it comes under the purview of our Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) as an alteration to that property.

Please allow this letter to serve as a conditional notice that should the National Collaborative of Women's History Sites receive funding from The William G. Pomeroy Foundation, the City is generally supportive of the request which must first be reviewed in the January 20, 2021 HPC meeting.

The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites shall not be responsible for maintenance of the sign or damage caused by the sign. Please feel free to contact me with questions or concerns regarding this matter.

Respectfully,

Digitally signed by Aimee Chambers  
DN: cn=Aimee Chambers, o=City of  
Hartford, ou=Director of Planning,  
email=aimee.chambers@hartford.gov  
, c=US

Date: 2021.01.13 13:13:12 -05'00'

Aimee Chambers, AICP  
Director of Planning  
City of Hartford, Department of Development Services  
[Aimee.chambers@hartford.gov](mailto:Aimee.chambers@hartford.gov)

Cc: The William G. Pomeroy Foundation

\_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (property owner name) owns the  
property at \_\_\_\_\_  
(address) and gives the National Collaborative of Women's History Sites permission to install a  
Suffrage Centennial Marker on my property should they receive funding from The William G.  
Pomeroy Foundation. The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites is not responsible  
for maintenance of sign or damage caused by the sign.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ (signature of property owner)

\_\_\_\_\_ (printed name of property owner)