



## Canton Center Historic District Commission Newsletter April 1, 2007

THE CANTON CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION welcomes all new property owners to the District and would like to take this opportunity to update everyone about where we came from and where we are.

SOME HISTORY: The Commission was established effective May 19, 1975 with approximately 56 principal houses and structures. At the time of its establishment, 71% of the structures were at least 100 years old.

The purpose of the Commission is to promote the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places associated with Canton Center and to preserve and protect buildings and places of historic interest, their architecture and settings in Canton Center, recognizing them as landmarks in the history of the Town.

Since its organization, the Commission has reviewed 145 applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness. The Commission has grown in size and now includes approximately 73 properties.

In 1985 the Commission produced a booklet about the District: The Canton Center Historic District; Its Evolution and Preservation. The booklet includes a brief history of all of the properties located within the boundaries of the CCHDC. If you would like a copy of this booklet please contact Vicki Arel at 693-4064.

A PROJECT that we are in the midst of organizing is an update to our picture file. The district has photographs of all of the

structures within its boundaries in a 4" x 6" black and white format. Properties that have changed within the last 5 years will be re-photographed in digital format. All photography will be done by the Commission and pictures will be taken from the street (the "public way"). These pictures are a wonderful history of our district and a very useful tool when a property owner submits an application.



FEATURED PROPERTY: The Creamery Gallery and Canton Clay Works, 150 Cherry Brook Road, is a fine example of a functioning business use of an historic property which was a true creamery for ninety-some years at that site, known as the Canton Creamery. The Creamery building was used as a depot for farmers to bring their milk products, from farms up through Canton and Barkhamsted. The milk was stored, cooled and the cream skimmed off prior to its shipment and or sale to other parties. The Canton Creamery Association, a corporation of those farmers who actively used the Creamery services, operated the Creamery during its life. In the 1990's, the building was converted into a gallery and a clay works, a use which continues today under the ownership and supervision of Tim Scull. The building retains its original lines and appearance, a testament to the potential of careful architectural and historic management.

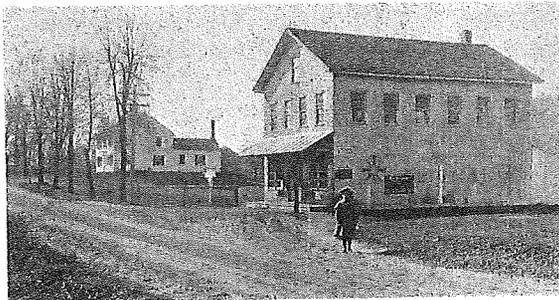
## **Frequently asked Questions and Answers**

We know that spring and summer are a popular time to make changes to your property, including renovations, additions or adding a new structure. **BEFORE YOU BEGIN** that spring or summer project please consider these frequently asked questions and the answers that follow:

**When do I need a Certificate of Appropriateness?** You should contact the CCHDC Chairperson if you are planning to make any exterior changes to the buildings and/or structures on your property to determine if a Certificate of Appropriateness is required. Changes may include, but are not limited to: replacement of windows, construction or alterations of decks, construction of outbuildings including garden sheds, additions to a home, fencing, and outdoor signs. A Certificate of Appropriateness shall be required whether or not a building permit is required.

**Is there a fee for requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness?** No! The District does not charge a fee. Funds to support the District come from monies budgeted by the Town of Canton.

**How do I apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness?** To apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness you must complete an application and include pictures and/or scaled drawings of the changes to the property. The application is available on the Town of Canton website at: <http://www.townofcantonct.org> or by calling the Chairperson, Vicki Arel at 693-4064.



**Do I need a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint my house?** No, the CCHDC does not have jurisdiction over paint color.

**How long does it take to get a Certificate of Appropriateness?** The Commission meets on the second Wednesday of every month and each application must be included in a Public Notice before being considered by the Commission. Therefore, applications for a Certificate of Appropriateness should be received by the Chairperson approximately 2 weeks prior to a scheduled meeting. In most cases, the Commission will act on an application the night it is presented. If an application is approved, the Town of Canton Building Inspector will be notified the following day of the Commission's action. If more information is needed before an application can be acted upon, the Commission may schedule a Special Meeting to act on an application.

### **Commission Members needed!!**

Would you like to serve on the CCHDC? The Commission currently has openings for alternate members. The commitment is generally for one meeting a month with an occasional Special Meeting. Please contact Vicki Arel for information on how you may apply to be a member of the Commission.

### **2007 Canton Center Historic District Commission Members:**

Vicki Arel – Chairperson  
693-4064  
Kim Bowen  
Sandy Bridgman  
Marianne Burbank  
Cary LeGeyt  
Woody Mather