

# on East Windsor's historic landmarks

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EAST WINDSOR — The town's history is a mosaic of old homes, churches, schools and cemeteries.

A row of Gothic Revival-style mill housing is a monument to the Broad Brook Co., a long-defunct woolen mill that was once the center of that village. The Scanitic Cemetery, with its professionally carved old stones and picket fence, is the final resting place for many distinguished names from the town's past.

And the Windsorville United Methodist Church reflects a religious sentiment still strong after more than 100 years.

These are only a few of the 270 buildings cataloged by the historic properties committee, which studied the historically and culturally significant sites and buildings in town.

On Wednesday, the group plans to hold a free slide show and discussion, the first presentation of the study. Committee President Bobbi Mazurek calls the 80-slide show "a leisurely tour around the town, say on your horse and buggy."

"I think [historic buildings are] one of the great natural resources in town for future tourists," committee member Arend-Jan Knuttel said. "You'd be surprised how many buildings date back from way back when. Behind the modern facades, quite a bit of the old town is still there."

Studying these old buildings took more than a year of traveling around town, talking to old-timers and researching town records. The committee received an \$8,500 federal grant from the Connecticut Historical Commission for the survey — an amount the group matched with town money, private donations and volunteer services. The group hired West Hartford historians David Ransom and Gregory Andrews, and in 1992 published its findings.

The finds include The Opera House on Main Street in Broad Brook; the post-and-beam, gabled-roof house on Ellsworth Road built by farmer Israel Allen in 1785; and a century-old bridge in Melrose.

"[The town is] very unspoiled," said Mary Donohue, who handles surveying grants for the state com-

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## East Windsor

### Slide show to focus on local landmarks

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mission. "You still see some of the mill villages and the farmsteads set in rural or landscaped settings."

The survey is intended to enhance public knowledge and appreciation of local history. It is also designed to give the commission information that will help it com-

ment on federally funded projects that might have an impact on historical buildings.

The survey contains a statement that is one of the driving sentiments

on Bridge Street.

The slide show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Warehouse Point Fire Department

resources or as their epitaph."

"This diverse architectural heritage is endangered by a tendency toward modernization. . . . Ultimately, unsympathetic modern construction usually creates a monotonous, sterile environment," the statement says. "This survey has two possible roles; it can serve either as a guide to the constructive management of the town's historic resources or as their epitaph."

behind the effort.