

## I. Areas of Historical Heritage

**H**ebron retains many reminders of its rich, three-century long history. Historic homes, old schoolhouses, distinctive churches, cemeteries, remains of manufacturing sites, objects and buildings such as the Old Town Hall, the Douglas Library, and other structures on the Hebron Green are important ties to Hebron's past.



In the interest of recognizing and protecting its historic resources, the Town has already taken several significant steps in this direction. A "Historical and Archeological Resources Inventory" identifying significant sites was compiled in the 1980's. This Inventory was a start on the comprehensive survey of historical sites. The Historic Properties Commission helped facilitate creation of a National Register Historic District around the Hebron Green, the Planning and Zoning Commission adopted specific regulations affecting the Hebron Green zoning district, and a separate section of this Plan was designated for Historical Heritage.



Since the adoption of the 2004 Plan of Conservation and Development, the Town and other organizations have taken many important steps to further the Objectives stated in this Section and generally to preserve aspects of Hebron's history:

- The Town has designated thirteen Local Historic Properties through the research and efforts of the Historic Properties Commission;
- The Town has purchased the Peters House, an architecturally and culturally significant 18<sup>th</sup> century property intended to be used for town and community activities upon completion of its renovations, and has begun its renovation through a grant secured by the Hebron Historical Society from

- the 1772 Foundation and a Small Town Economic Assistance Program grant secured by the Town. In addition, the Peters House has been approved for inclusion on the “Connecticut Freedom Trail” (see [www.ctfreedomtrail.org](http://www.ctfreedomtrail.org));
- Restoration work, funded through various grants, have taken place on the Old Town Hall, the Horton House, the Gull and Burrows Hill Schoolhouses, and the World War II Civilian Aircraft Observation Post;
  - The Historic Properties Commission has established a Hebron historic properties inventory of over 250 properties and an informational website at [www.hebronhpc.org](http://www.hebronhpc.org). Their website contains very useful information including links to the Hebron Historical Society website at [www.HebronHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.HebronHistoricalSociety.org);
  - The “Hebron’s Historic Heritage” booklet has been updated;
  - The Town has received “Certified Local Government” status and “Preserve America” designation enabling the Town to apply for federal and State historic preservation grants; and,
  - An inventory of historic barns was compiled as part of a state-wide effort. See more information at [www.connecticutbarns.org](http://www.connecticutbarns.org).

This Section of the Plan calls attention to these historic resources and sets forth their preservation as a significant part of the Plan.

**Goal:** Protect and preserve Hebron’s rich, historic heritage for the education, enrichment and enjoyment of all citizens and promote the environmental, economic and cultural benefits of historic preservation. Historic resources include homes, schools, churches, cemeteries, objects and older manufacturing sites, as well as the outbuildings, landscaping and spaces associated with them. Additional resources include old rail lines, roadways and scenic views and vistas that are an integral part of their historic setting.

## **Objectives:**

1. Continue to facilitate the designation of historic districts and historic properties where appropriate to assure preservation of historic assets.
2. Continue to review and amend zoning and subdivision regulations to require new land development to protect and complement historic resources, and give full consideration to protecting and maintaining historic resources in reviewing plans for new subdivisions.
3. Encourage identification and preservation of Hebron’s historic schoolhouses and other historic buildings and seek to protect them from demolition, decay or inappropriate modification.

4. Encourage preservation and maintenance of historic buildings, landscaping, and cemeteries by public and private landowners, with particular emphasis on the buildings near the Town Green.
5. Support restoration and recreational use of historic rail lines.
6. The Hebron Historic Properties Commission and the Hebron Historical Society, with the assistance of the Town, should develop and conduct workshops to encourage residents and commercial entities to research and further inventory unique historical aspects of their properties and promote educational programs to keep Hebron's legacy alive for all of its citizens.
7. Consider applying the provisions of the "Village District", as set forth in P. A. 98-116, to the Hebron Green and other areas as another mechanism of protecting this unique area.
8. Continue to support the restoration and public use of the Peters House and promote educational activities at this site;
9. Promote the establishment of an annual Hebron Historical House / Sites Tour to increase interest in preserving these historic sites.
10. On behalf of the Historic Properties Commission, continue to apply for available historic preservation and restoration grants.

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