



Connecticut  
Landmarks

## News/Calendar Release

Date: March 15, 2010

Connecticut Landmarks  
Main Office  
255 Main Street 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 247-8996  
[www.ctlandmarks.org](http://www.ctlandmarks.org)

**Contact:** Cindy Riccio, Site Administrator, Butler-McCook House & Garden,  
(860) 522-1806, [butler.mccook@ctlandmarks.org](mailto:butler.mccook@ctlandmarks.org)  
Jamie-Lynn Fontaine, Marketing & Development Associate  
(860) 247-8996 x.23, [jamie.fontaine@ctlandmarks.org](mailto:jamie.fontaine@ctlandmarks.org)

### April First Thursday at the Butler-McCook House & Garden

#### Exhibition Opening, Live Music & History Happy Hour



**Hartford, CT** – On Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, Connecticut Landmarks' Butler-McCook House & Garden & Main Street History Center will feature the exhibit opening of Hartford resident Jacqueline D. McKinney's *My Neighborhood*, as part of the Greater Hartford Art Council's Aetna First Thursday. Sponsored by Bank of America, the evening will also include guitar music by Dave Mack, who has performed in reggae and funk bands, tours of the first floor of the Butler-McCook House, strolls through the historic garden, wine and light refreshments. The event is free with a suggested food and per drink donation of \$5.

For the Connecticut Landmarks exhibition, McKinney painted subject matter from her Hartford neighborhood, Asylum Hill, which features a collection of homes, churches and businesses built between the 1870's and the 1920's. The neighborhood was built over a 70 year period when Hartford was one of the wealthiest cities in the country. McKinney, a guide at the Butler-McCook House &

Garden, loves history, community work, ceramics and painting. Her art work has appeared in three shows at Artspace Hartford.

The Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center is located at 396 Main Street, in Hartford. Regular tours are available April 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Hours for April are: Saturday and Sunday, from 11 am to 4 pm. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, teachers and seniors, \$4 for children age 6-18, and free for members and children under 6. Families with two adults and children receive a special family price of \$15. Groups of 10 or more are \$5 each. For school groups and special curriculum-based programming, please contact the education department at (860) 247-8996 x.11. For more information or to book a group tour, please contact the Butler-McCook House at (860) 522-1806.

For 189 years the Butler-McCook House & Garden was home to four generations of a family who participated in, witnessed, and recorded the evolution of Main Street between the American Revolution and the mid-twentieth century. The house's exterior looks much as it did when it was built in 1782. Behind it is a restored Victorian ornamental garden, originally laid out in 1865. Inside are the original furnishings ranging from Connecticut-crafted colonial furniture to Victorian-era toys and paintings to samurai armor acquired during a trip to Japan. The objects were accumulated over the course of more than 125 years by members of this extraordinary clan, which included physicians, industrialists, missionaries, artists, globe trotters and pioneering educators and social reformers.

The Main Street History Center's keystone exhibition, "Witnesses on Main Street," uses the Butler and McCook families' words and experiences to chronicle their neighborhood's transformation from a clutch of clapboard dwellings, taverns, and artisans shops into a modern urban enclave of multi-story steel, brick, and stone structures housing major financial, industrial, governmental, and cultural institutions.

### **About Connecticut Landmarks**

Founded in 1936, Connecticut Landmarks, formerly known as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, is the largest state-wide heritage museum organization in Connecticut. The historic, landmark properties include: the Amasa Day House, Moodus; the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, Bethlehem; the Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center, Hartford; the Buttolph-Williams House, Wethersfield; the Hempsted Houses, New London; the Isham-Terry House, Hartford; the Nathan Hale Homestead, Coventry; the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden, Suffield. Connecticut Landmark's mission is to inspire interest and encourage learning about the American past by preserving selected historic properties, collections and stories and presenting programs that meaningfully engage the public and our communities. For more information, please visit [www.ctlandmarks.org](http://www.ctlandmarks.org).

Photos:

Butler-McCook House & Garden & Main Street History Center, 396 Main St. Hartford.  
Photo by Nick Lacy.

###

-More-