



Connecticut  
Landmarks

## **News Release**

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# **Connecticut Landmarks' Geothermal Groundbreaking Ceremony**



**Hartford, CT** – On Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 – 5:30 pm at the Butler-McCook House & Garden, Connecticut Landmarks will break ground for the installation of a closed loop geothermal HVAC system for the Butler-McCook Campus. The geothermal project will support the needs of the Butler-McCook House & Main Street History Center at 396 Main Street and of the Amos Bull House and Butler-McCook Carriage House at 59 South Prospect Street. The new HVAC system will replace outdated and inefficient equipment in each of the structures resulting in energy cost savings for the entire property. This is the first phase of Connecticut Landmarks' long-term goal of pioneering environmentally sustainable preservation that can serve as a replicable model for green preservation. The project is funded with the support of the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism and the William and Alice Mortensen Foundation. For more information about the project or to RSVP, please contact Jamie-Lynn Fontaine at (860) 247-8996 ext. 23 or [jamie.fontaine@ctlandmarks.org](mailto:jamie.fontaine@ctlandmarks.org).

Built in 1788 the Amos Bull House is the oldest extant brick building in Hartford, dating from the Revolutionary War era. It is imperative that the structure, the first in Connecticut to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, be stabilized and preserved. Connecticut Landmarks is undertaking a project to preserve, renovate and reuse the Amos Bull House and the adjacent Butler-McCook Carriage House and to develop their potential as key components of its downtown Hartford campus and the organization's 12-property network.

The project is aimed at accomplishing a number of high priority, long-term strategic goals: preserving the Amos Bull House; creating an Education and Community Center; establishing the Archival Research Center for Telling the Connecticut Story; providing permanent administrative offices; pioneering environmentally sustainable preservation which serves as a replicable model; and strengthening Connecticut Landmarks long-term financial stability and mission-based activities.

The Butler-McCook House & Garden's First Thursday History Happy Hour featuring guitarist Lorena Garay and the opening of the Edith Dale Monson exhibition in the Aetna Gallery will commence following the ceremony.

The Butler-McCook House & Garden and Main Street History Center is located at 396 Main Street, in Hartford. Hours for May through September: Thursday – Sunday, 11 am – 4pm. 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, or to book a group tour, please contact the Butler-McCook House & Garden at (860) 522-1806.

### **About the Butler-McCook House & Garden & Main Street History Center**

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, 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 artisan 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 as the Antiquarian & Landmarks Society, Connecticut Landmarks is the largest statewide heritage museum organization in Connecticut. The historic landmark properties span four centuries of Connecticut history and include: the Amasa Day House, Moodus; the Amos Bull House, Hartford; 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 Landmarks' 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).

Photo: The Amos Bull House as seen from the 1865 Butler-McCook Garden.