



Connecticut
Landmarks

NEWS

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Connecticut Landmarks

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Discover the Hidden Treasures in the Attic of the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden



Suffield, CT – On Saturday, August 7th Connecticut Landmarks' Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden will feature a special Attic Tour, at 1:30 pm. Additional Attic Tours will be available on the first Saturday of each month, through October. TourCoordinator Peg Hildreth will present a rare and behind-the-scenes exploration of the house's attic showcases a unique variety of 18th, 19th and early 20th century objects and collections.

Like many attics, the Phelps-Hatheway attic remained untouched for generations and was filled with haphazardly-placed objects. Connecticut Landmarks hired a curatorial consultant to carry out an "attic archaeology" project which revealed that the space was a veritable time capsule telling the story of family life on Suffield's historic Main Street.

The Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden is located at 55 South Main Street in Suffield, CT and is open for regular tours from May 29th – October 10th on Saturday and Sunday from 1 – 4 pm. Admission to the museum is \$7 for adults; \$6 for students, teachers, and seniors; \$4 for children age 6-18; children under 6 and Connecticut Landmarks members are free. Families (2 adults with children) are \$15; groups of 10 or more are \$5 per person. For school groups and special curriculum-based programming, or to reserve tours for groups of 10 or more, please contact the education department at (860) 247-8996.

About the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden:

The Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden highlights the luxurious lifestyle enjoyed by two wealthy eighteenth-century Connecticut Valley families. Merchant Shem Burbank built the house in 1761 but as a Tory sympathizer his business suffered during the American Revolution. In 1788 he sold the house to Oliver Phelps, who in 1794 flaunted the riches earned from land investments in western New York by adding a wing, an architectural masterpiece that still features the original Paris-made wallpaper. Eight years later Phelps left Suffield, bankrupted by his failed land schemes.

From the sheer size of the house to the wallpaper, the style and layout of the rooms, the grand staircase and the enormous hallway, the Phelps-Hatheway House is the most important building of its time in inland New England. The house represents unique high-style and grand scale for such an early period of Federal architecture. The house is furnished with outstanding eighteenth-century Connecticut furniture and landscaped with formal flower beds maintained by the Suffield Garden Club. The Hatheway family owned the house throughout the 1800s, accumulating an attic full of artifacts that document life during that century.

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 Amos Bull House, Hartford; the Bellamy-Ferriday House & Garden, Bethlehem; the Butler-McCook House & Garden & 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.

Photo: The Attic in the Phelps-Hatheway House & Garden in Suffield. Photo by Nick Lacy.

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