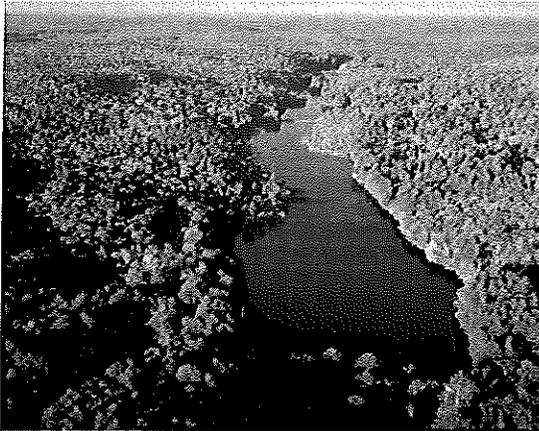


BACKGROUND

CONNECTICUT NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS PROGRAM

JANUARY, 2009



QUINEBAUG AND SHETUCKET RIVERS

VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

26 Towns in Northeast Connecticut

www.thelastgreenvalley.org



UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

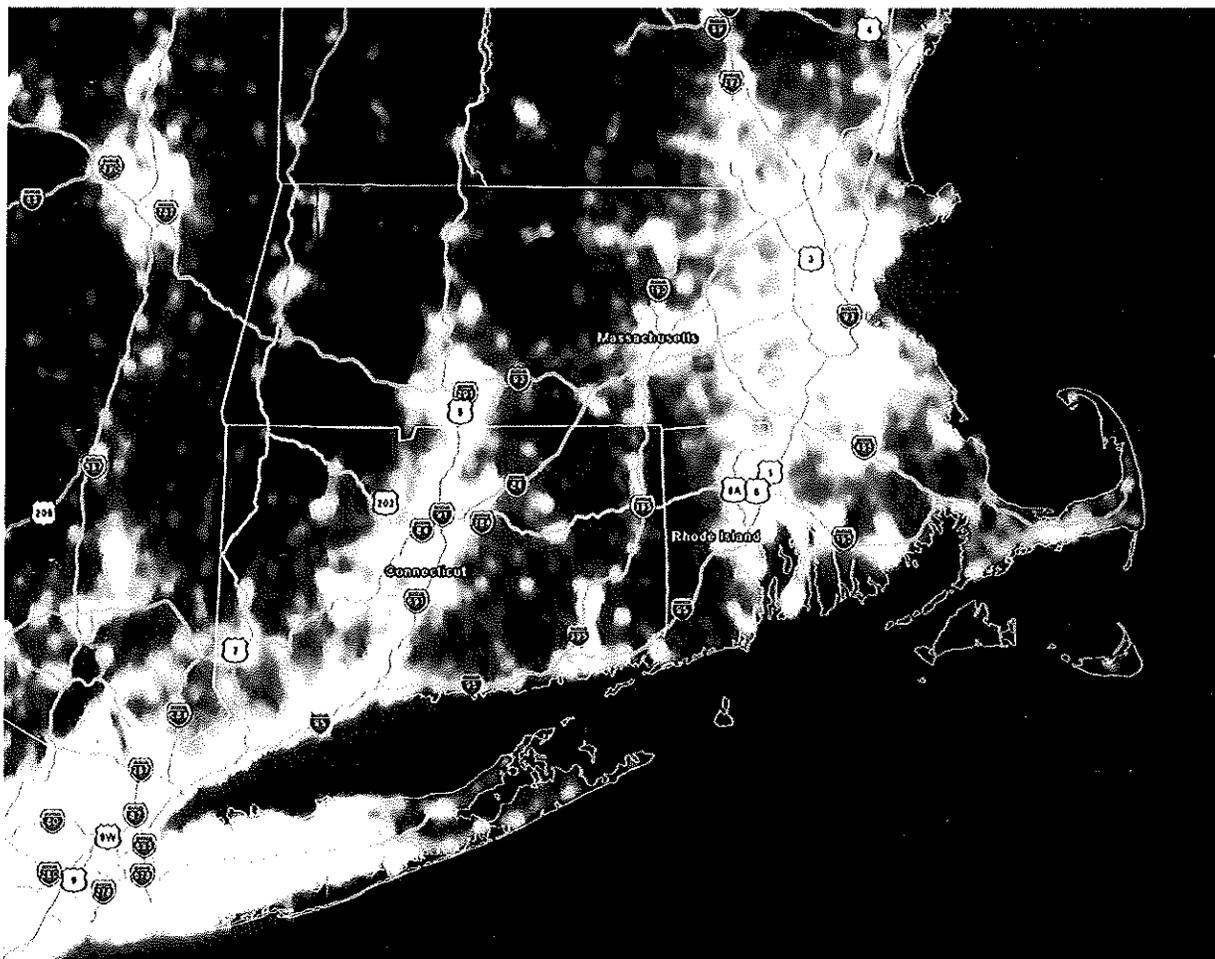
9 Towns in Northwest Connecticut

www.upperhousatonicheritage.org

Description

QSHC includes 26 towns in northeast Connecticut; UHV includes 9 towns in northwest Connecticut. The Congress of the United States has designated these two areas of Connecticut as regions of national significance through PL103-449 as amended (1994), and PL 109-338 (2006), respectfully. Together, the QSHC and UHV include more than 20% of the geographic area of the State of Connecticut, including 35 towns. They also include an additional 31 towns in the Commonwealth of MA, representing bi-state efforts to conserve and enhance significant resources.

In the satellite image below, QSHC and UHV appear distinctively dark in the night sky amidst the urban and suburban glow from developed areas. These National Heritage Areas are the last remaining large areas of open space in Connecticut.



Present Authority

QSHC and UHV operate through guidelines provided in their federal enabling legislation.

Mission Statements:

QSHC *...to conserve, celebrate and enhance the significant historical, cultural, natural and scenic resources of The Last Green Valley while promoting quality of life based on a strong, healthy economy compatible with the region's character.*

UHV *...exists to illuminate the diverse, rich identity of the Upper Housatonic River Valley region and to preserve and promote its historical, cultural and natural resources. We support, stimulate and advance the region's economic vitality and quality of life, looking towards a sustainable future for the benefit of residents and visitors. The National Heritage Area facilitates collaboration with regional organizations, working as a catalyst for regional thinking.*

What is a National Heritage Area?

According to the National Park Service, a national heritage area is a place designated by the United States Congress where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. These areas tell nationally important stories about our experience through both the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved within them.

There are 37 such areas of distinction in the U.S. and 2 of them are in Connecticut, a distinct honor for the State.

Significance and Accomplishments

QSHC

Congress found that:

- 1.) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is one of the last unspoiled and undeveloped areas in the Northeastern United States (The Last Green Valley, 80% forests and farmland) and has remained largely intact, including important aboriginal archaeological sites, excellent water quality, beautiful rural landscapes, architecturally significant mill structures and mill villages, and large acreages of parks and other permanent open space;
- 2.) the State of Connecticut ranks last among the 50 States in the amount of federally protected park and open space lands within its borders and lags far behind the other Northeastern States in the amount of land set-aside for public recreation;
- 3.) the beautiful rural landscapes, scenic vistas and excellent water quality of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers contain significant undeveloped recreational opportunities for people throughout the United States;
- 4.) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley is within a two-hour drive of the major metropolitan areas of New York City, Hartford, New Haven, Providence, Worcester, Springfield, and Boston. With the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors reporting that Americans are taking shorter 'closer to home' vacations, the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley represents important close-by recreational opportunities for significant populations;
- 5.) the existing mill sites and other structures throughout the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley were instrumental in the development of the industrial revolution;
- 6.) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley contains a vast number of discovered and unrecovered Native American and colonial archaeological sites significant to the history of North America and the United States;
- 7.) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley represents one of the last traditional upland farming and mill village communities in the Northeastern United States;
- 8.) the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley played a nationally significant role in the cultural evolution of the prewar colonial period, leading the transformation from Puritan to Yankee, the "Great Awakening" religious revival and early political development leading up to and during the War of Independence; and
- 9.) many local, regional and State agencies, businesses, and private citizens and the New England Governors' Conference have expressed an overwhelming desire to combine forces: to work cooperatively to preserve and enhance resources region-wide and better plan for the future.

QSHC significant resources in the State of Connecticut:

- 1.) Two of the most scenic and productive river systems in New England;
- 2.) More than 80 ponds and lakes with exceptional water quality and habitats;
- 3.) Seven State forests, including the largest in Connecticut;
- 4.) Sixteen State wildlife management areas;
- 5.) Five State parks comprising thousands of acres;
- 6.) More than 130 miles of trails including the East Coast Greenway, a National Millennium Trail;
- 7.) Ninety-six properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places;
- 8.) Thirty-six National Register Historic Districts, each including many significant historic structures in their original context;
- 9.) Five National Historic Landmarks;
- 10.) One archaeological district, 3 significant archaeological sites on the National register.

QSHC accomplishments to date:

- 1.) Thousands of individuals, hundreds of nonprofits, businesses, local and regional organizations, 35 towns and two states have worked under the designation of QSHC to preserve and enhance the significant natural, historic, cultural and scenic resources of The Last Green Valley (QSHC);
- 2.) The Green Valley Institute, a partnership with the Universities of Connecticut and Massachusetts Cooperative Extension System, has significantly improved the information base from which land use and natural resource conservation decisions are made by primarily volunteer municipal officials;
- 3.) The Green Valley Institute has been recognized with eight state and national awards for public education in the past three years, including the 2005 Public Education Award from the American Planning Association;
- 4.) Significant historic structures have been identified and restored under the programs of QSHC;
- 5.) QSHC has assembled museums, attractions, landscapes and businesses into cohesive interpretive projects that tell the stories of The Last Green Valley for residents and tourists alike;
- 6.) QSHC has developed agri-tourism programs, data collection and analysis and continuing education in its vision of sustaining the traditional land-based economy of the region;
- 7.) Recreational tourism has been enhanced by the many trails, greenways, river access and interpretive projects of QSHC;
- 8.) Each of the 35 municipal governments within QSHC has signed a voluntary, non-binding community compact accepting the goals and objectives of the Corridor's management plan and formalizing their commitment to balance conservation and growth and their collective vision for the watershed.

UHV

Congress has found:

- 1.) UHV is a singular geographical and cultural region that has made significant national contributions through its literary, artistic, musical and architectural achievements, its iron, paper and electrical equipment industries, and its scenic beautification and environmental conservation efforts.
- 2.) UHV has 139 properties and historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places and four National Natural Landmarks – including Beckley Bog, Norfolk, CT, Bingham Bog in Salisbury, CT and Cathedral Pines in Cornwall, CT.
- 3.) Writers, artists, musicians and vacationers have visited the region for more than 150 years to enjoy its scenic wonders making it one of the country's leading cultural resorts.
- 4.) The UHV has made significant national cultural contributions through writers, visual artists and performing artists.
- 5.) The UHV is noted for its pioneering achievements in the iron, paper, and electrical generation industries and has cultural resources to interpret those industries.
- 6.) The region became a national leader in scenic beautification and environmental conservation efforts, following the era of industrialization and deforestation and maintains a fabric of significant conservation areas including the meandering Housatonic River.
- 7.) Important historical events related to the American Revolution, Shay's Rebellion, and early civil rights took place in UHV.
- 8.) The region has an American Indian presence going back 10,000 years and Mohicans had a formative role in contact with Europeans during the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 9.) The UHVNHA has been proposed (and designated) in order to heighten appreciation of the region, preserve its natural and historical resources, and improve the quality of life and economy of the area.

UHV accomplishments to date:

- 1.) October Weekends of Heritage Walks (since 2002) – more than 40 walks ranging from hiking the Appalachian Trail to exploring architecture in Falls village.
- 2.) Iron Heritage Trail (since 2001) – programs, events and a brochure describing the region's nationally important 1734-1923 iron industry.
- 3.) African American Heritage Trail (since 2004) – events, restorations, a 250-page heritage book and trail brochures cover the region's significant African American heritage.

4.) UHV Experience (since 2004) – graduate level course for local teachers focusing on UHV’s industrial and environmental heritage.

5.) Performing Arts Heritage Trail (since 2006) – work is underway to research the regional heritage and prepare a descriptive brochure.

How do QSHC and UHV work?

- ◆ They develop and maintain partnerships among local, regional, state and federal entities to fulfill their missions.
- ◆ They act as educators/facilitators to motivate independent actions.
- ◆ They take action through specific projects and programs when they are the only or the most appropriate entities to bring about initiation or successful completion of critical work relating to their mission.

Management Entities

Both QSHC and UHV are managed by non-profit organizations that are designated as the appropriate management authority in their federal enabling legislation.

Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.

P.O. Box 29, 111 Main Street
Danielson, CT 06239-0029
860-774-3300

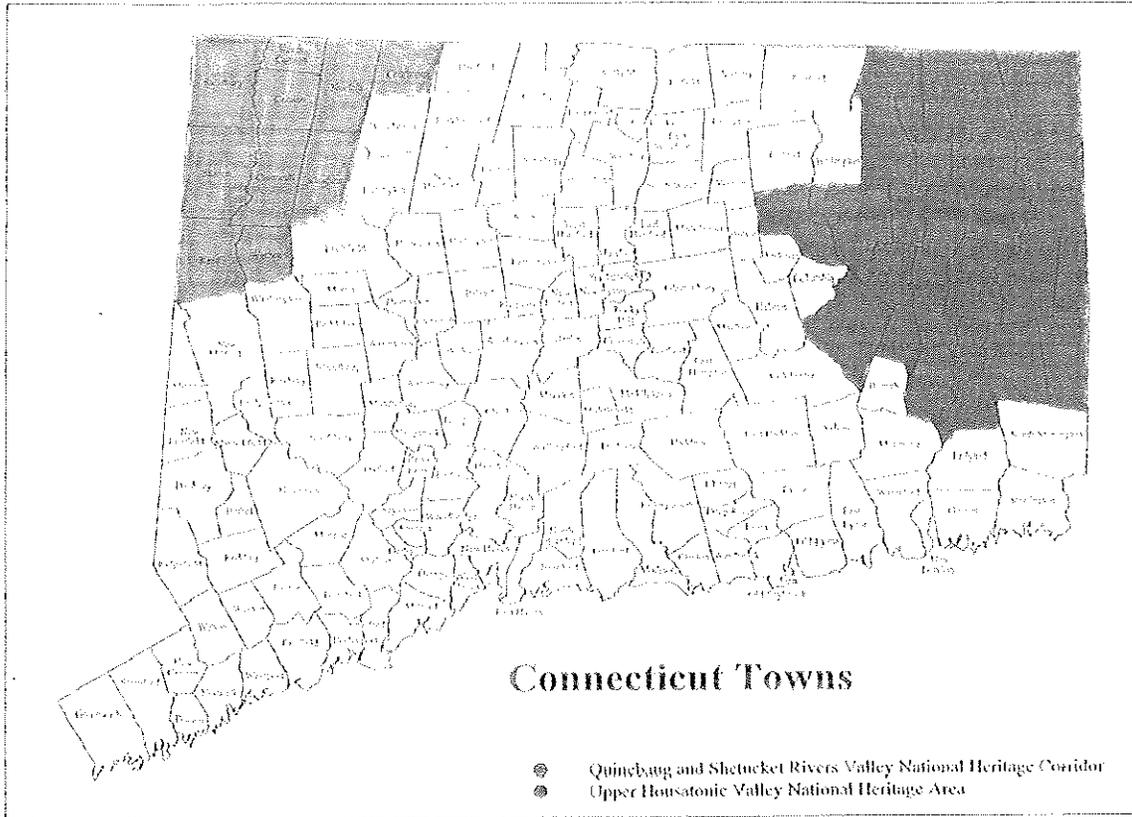
Executive Director & CEO: Charlene Perkins Cutler
Charlene@tlgv.org

UHVNHA, Inc.

P.O. Box 493
Salisbury, CT 06068
860-435-9878

Executive Director: Dan Bolognani
info@housatonicheritage.org

CT State Perspective



CONNECTICUT TOWNS LOCATED IN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley NHC

Ashford
Brooklyn
Canterbury
Chaplin
Coventry
Eastford
Franklin
Griswold
Hampton
Killingly
Lebanon
Lisbon
Mansfield
Norwich
Plainfield
Pomfret
Preston
Putnam
Scotland
Sprague
Sterling
Thompson
Union
Voluntown
Windham
Woodstock

Upper Housatonic Valley NHA

Canaan
Colebrook
Cornwall
Kent
Norfolk
North Canaan
Salisbury
Sharon
Warren

Population and Area NHA Towns in CT

Data from U. S. Census Bureau, based on 2000 census and projected growth to 2006

Town	Population	Area (sq.mi.)	Town	Population	Area (sq.mi.)
QSHC			UHV		
Ashford	4435	39.5	Canaan	1102	33.3
Brooklyn	7801	29.1	Colebrook	1545	31.5
Canterbury	5092	40.2	Cornwall	1488	43.3
Chaplin	2507	19.6	Kent	2968	49.6
Coventry	12194	38.4	Norfolk	1677	45.3
Eastford	1787	29.2	North		
Franklin	1892	19.6	Canaan	3385	19.5
Griswold	11238	37.1	Salisbury	4044	60.1
Hampton	2081	25.5	Sharon	3056	58.7
Killingly	17646	50	Warren	1384	27.6
Lebanon	7302	54.1		20649	368.9
Lisbon	4178	16.6			
Mansfield	24756	45.5			
Norwich	36324	29.5			
Plainfield	15417	43			
Pomfret	4165	40.3			
Preston	4882	31.8			
Putnam	9307	20.4			
Scotland	1721	18.7			
Sprague	2979	13.8			
Sterling	3650	27.3			
Thompson	9306	48.7			
Union	752	29.8			
Voluntown	2603	39.8			
Windham	23770	27.9			
Woodstock	8187	61.8			
	225972	877.2			

**STATE SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NATIONAL HERITAGE
AREAS IN CONNECTICUT**

Senators

Anthony Guglielmo
Andrew Maynard
Edith Prague
Andrew Roraback
Donald E. Williams

Representatives

Mike Alberts
Penny Bacchiochi
Mary Ann Carson
Christopher D. Coutu
Mae Flexner
Bryan Hurlburt
Shawn Johnston
Joan Lewis
Denise Merrill
Steven Mikutel
Craig Miner
Melissa Olson
Walter Pawelkiewicz
Tom Reynolds
Kevin Ryan
George Wilber
Roberta B. Willis