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In a recent column I wrote about places in Killingly that have been included on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to that historic listing several local historic districts exist in the Town. Both the Academy Street (Danielson) and Dayville-Hartford Turnpike local historic districts were established in 1988 and come under the jurisdiction of the Killingly Historic District Commission. Three historic properties also come under the purview of the Commission---the former Killingly Center School (Grange #112), the Samuel Moffitt House on Pleasant Street in Dayville, and Stone Road.

A recent brochure prepared by the Killingly Historic District Commission summarizes what it is, the Commission’s purpose, its jurisdiction and provides links to additional materials. The Killingly HDC follows the Connecticut Statutes on Historic Districts and the National Park Services Standards and Guidelines.

The Killingly Historic District Commission (HDC), founded in 1986, is an 8-member commission of volunteers and consists of five regular members and three alternate members appointed by the Town Council. Members meet eight times a year. Check the town event calendar for meeting dates. The HDC is not the same as the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society.

Five principles guide the HDC on preserving the history and beautifying the Town of Killingly. #1-To safeguard the heritage of the Town by preserving historic districts, including areas, sites landmarks, buildings, structures, objects, resources and works of art which reflect elements of Killingly’s cultural, social, economic, political and/or architectural history. #2-To stabilize and improve property values in the historic district. #3- To foster civic beauty. #4-To strengthen the local economy. #5-To promote the use of the historic district for the education, pleasure and welfare of Killingly’s citizens and the State of Connecticut.

For buildings included in a local historic district (or designated as a local historic property), the Historic District Commission has jurisdiction over the structure’s exterior that is visible from all public right of ways. Fences are also included in this oversight. The HDC has no jurisdiction over the interior of an historic property in a local district. (Refer to Connecticut Statue chapter 97on Historic Districts and Historic Properties).

Becoming a local historic district requires several steps. Sometimes residents themselves will wish to have their area designated as an historic district. After a historical materials have been gathered (usually by a consultant if the houses have not been surveyed) the district must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the proposed district’s residents.

Property owners in a local historic district or one designated as an historic property must contact the HDC prior to making any alterations to the exterior of the structure that is visible from all public right of ways. Forms for a Certificate of Appropriateness are available in the Assessor’s office. Only after an individual appears before the HDC, is the Certificate of Appropriateness issued.

The Historic District Commission is in the final stages of producing a brochure. Printed copies will be available to the public this summer. It is now available on the Killingly Historic District Commission page on the Town of Killingly website.

I’m always looking for interesting tidbits for this column and am delighted when I come across something different. Bernie Mitchell has been going through a box of individual *Windham County Transcripts* and has been making sure that they are already in our archives. If they are duplicates, then articles can be cut/copied and placed in the appropriate files. One paper, designated as a Fall Supplement, had no date so I was checking businesses and industries against Natalie Coolidge’s Killingly Business Encyclopedia to see if I could narrow the time frame. I discovered an article that I’d like to share especially since many of us think of flowers and gardening this time of year.

If you’re an older resident of the area, perhaps you remember Arndt Bretschneider, whose garden establishment was located on Mechanics Street in Danielson. The Supplement noted, “ While the floral end of the business is looked after by Mrs. Bretschneider and services many with cut flowers of all sorts and potted plants and also is popularly patronized when wreaths and bouquets and other floral decorations are required for funerals, weddings, and other occasions, it is Mr. Bretschneider who is called on when some estate or home owner of pretentious grounds is in need of the services of a landscape gardener. He has available hardy nursery stock that can easily withstand the rigors of our New England climate and so expert is he in their planting and general arrangement that this part of his business is a very large one.” He and his wife came to Danielson in the early 1900’s. An April 1911 entry in the Business Encyclopedia noted, “A. Bretschneider of New Haven has leased W. J. Schoonman’s green house for three years. He will reside in C. B. Wheatley’s house at Industrial Place (the Connecticut Mills area). He was for a number of years connected with the Park department in New Haven.” Entries later in the year place him on North Street. Entries in the fall of 1912 report his plans to construct a greenhouse on Mechanics Street. (corner of Mechanics and Hutchins Streets---where CL & P was later located). He died in March 1947. If you have memories to share, please email me or call the Killingly Historical Center.

The Fall Supplement also had another business that you might recall. Do you remember the Gold Bell Shop (Lagace Service) at 24 Main Street, Danielson, Vertume Lagace, proprietor? “The Lagace Service has made a most enviable reputation for itself in the cleaning, pressing, dyeing, and repairing of garments entrusted to its care.” It’s listed in the 1931 Telephone Book according to the Business Encyclopedia. I’m thinking that the Supplement might be from the early 1930’s. It would be nice if the Center already has a copy in the archives. Of course, going through individual papers takes time.

Margaret M. Weaver Killingly Municipal Historian, May 2018.

Special thanks to the Paul Hopkins (Killingly Assistant Town Manager), Terry Barton (Historic District Chairwoman), and Commission members Rebecca Gadbois, and Anne Millard who helped with the section on local historic districts, and Bernie Mitchell for pointing out the Fall Supplement. For additional information email me at [margaretmweaver@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmweaver@gmail.com) or visit the Killingly Historical Center Wed. or Sat. 10-4 or [www.killinglyhistorical.org](http://www.killinglyhistory.org). or call 860-779-7250. Like us at Facebook at [www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/killinglyhistoricalsociety). Mail for the Killingly Historical & Genealogical Society, Inc. or the Killingly Historical Center should be sent to **PO Box 265**, Danielson, Connecticut 06329