### Plainville Campgrounds

# 150th Anniversary Celebration



### Cottage Open House Tour

Please keep in mind that many of the historic landmarks on this tour are privately owned homes and not open to the public. Please respect the privacy of the cottage owners as you admire their homes.

No Cameras Please

The Plainville Campgrounds, a grouping of summer cottages, is a good example of the organized religious campgrounds of the 19th century. Every summer, from 1865 to 1957, Methodist camp meetings were held at the Campgrounds. Camp meetings were an outgrowth of 19th century evangelism and provided a morally acceptable form of recreation. Presently run by a non-denominational association of cottage owners, the Campgrounds are no longer used strictly for religious purposes. Though once a religious property, the Plainville Campgrounds derives its primary significance as a substantially intact, architecturally distinctive complex of summer cottages, grouped in a circular fashion unique to religious campgrounds.

The Campgrounds follows the traditional circular configuration of camp meetings, which originated as a circle of tents ringing a roughly-constructed preaching platform. In the Campgrounds earliest days, just after its founding in 1865, tents were pitched around a central platform which stood where the Auditorium now stands. The Auditorium constructed in 1902, is now surrounded by 19 large, 2-story cottages, built by the New Haven District churches to house their members attending the summer meetings. Along six avenues radiating from the Circle to the north are numerous, smaller, 1- and 2-story cottages. Simple frame structures, the cottages all have gable roofs and 1- or 2-story porches and are decorated with fanciful lathe-turned and jig sawn woodwork; most are sided either with vertical boards or tongue and-groove paneling.

Most of the cottages date from the 1880s through 1910, with a handful of structures (26 Clinton and 37 Bristol and 27 Meriden) which may date as late as 1925. Intended for summer use only, the cottages were not built to a high standard of structural integrity. Very few have been altered in any significant way, either through the removal of original fabric or the addition of incompatible modern elements.





Administration Bldg - New Haven District Camp Meeting
Assn (Bedrooms & Showers)

Plainville Camp Grounds Assn (Bedrooms & Showers)

Rollie & Helen Austin

John & Florence Bunt

Bob & Pat Steinbeiser

Dick Nadeau

# First Church

## Hartford



First Methodist Church Hartford
East Berlin Methodist Church
New Haven District Camp Ground Assn
Plainville Camp Grounds Assn
Andy & Betty Antonelle
Ed & Dee Tousey

We purchased the cottage at the end of the 2013 season and did not move in until May at the start of the 2014 season. We love our cottage, the campgrounds and being a half hour ride from our four children, their spouses, eleven grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

#### 11 Circle Ave

#### Chautaugua



#### c 1893-1899 Plainville Methodist Church

C 1075-10	377 Hamville Memodist Charch
1921	Connecticut Chautauqua Inc
1970	Plainville Camp Ground Assn - Arts & Crafts Bldg
1979	Chautauqua Bldg - Plainville Camp Ground Assn
1992	Fred Rich
1993	John Gallagher
1999	Robert & Karen Reed
2002	Ed & Norma Bacco
2011	Bob & Sandra Utterback

This cottage was originally named "Plainville" and served as an ice cream parlor in the 1910's. Chautauqua was an adult education movement in the US, highly popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Christian instruction, preaching and worship were a strong part of the Chautauqua experience. The lower porch railing was recently returned to the original style.



c. 1893 - 1899 Southington Methodist Church

1929 St Paul Epworth League

1938 New Haven District Camp Grounds Assn - Henderson

Guild Store

1964 Epworth League

1974 Plainville Camp Grounds Assn - Boys Arts & Crafts Bldg

1992 Julie Gagliano

This cottage had previously been a carpentry shop. When we purchased the cottage it was being used as a storage shed, full of old tool, wood benches, cans of nails, old glass, etc. The transformation can be seen on the slide show in the Dining Hall today.



c. 1893 - 1899 Granby Methodist Church

1961 John & Beatrice Capen

1968 Plainville Camp Grounds Assn

1973 Henderson Guild

1982 Al Vincent

2009 Larry & Judy Gaggero

2014 Yvan & Joan Denoncourt

We love the environment of the Campgrounds. The friendships and friendly atmosphere. Everyone is kind and supportive and helpful. Our White House is a lovely place and was put together and built by two caring people who we feel around us every day. We feel safe and happy here and find our neighbors loving and friendly, like people we have known forever. We have joy in our hearts knowing that friendship is just outside our door. The Wednesday nite suppers and the Friday golf outings are things we intend to partake this season. There is much to do or as little as you wish without feeling guilty.



c. 1893 - 1899	St Paul's Methodist Church, Waterbury, CT
1960	Kenneth, Ruth, & William Clark
1988	Charles & Lyrel Cellar

John & Joan Baker
Tom & Alison O'Brien

Since 2008, we have remodeled the street side of the cottage and screened in the downstairs front porch. The cottage has three bedrooms and a large living room, and seems even more spacious and comfortable because it was *feng shui*-ed in 2014.



c. 1893 - 1899 Bristol Methodist Church

1958 Ed Tassinari

1964 Margaret Colton & Wallace Ashe (son)

1966 Reverend E John & Lois Boone 1974 Ruth Clark & William Clark (son) 1986 Helen Camp & Frances Hurlburt

2001 Lynne Scott

The whole upstairs was gutted in ????. We used flour on the floor to determine where the new walls should go and rebuilt the upstairs in two visits of 3 weeks each!



1897 Simsbury Methodist Church

1938 New Haven District Camp Ground Assn

1957 Oscar & Elsie Rausch

1989 Art & Esther (Rausch) Pope

This cottage is one of few remaining that has not been altered (exterior and interior) since it was built in 1897. The builders left their fingerprints and autographs on the walls which can still be seen. It still has its inviting double front doors and its original tin roof. A kitchen was added to the rear in the early part of the 20th Century. Oscar Rausch, the first private owner, served for a time as President of the PCGA, and other Rausch family members were active for many years in the Forestville Bible Conference, an integral component of the grounds. Esther Rausch Pope has been spending summers at this cottage and others for over 60 years! Can we say, we love it here.

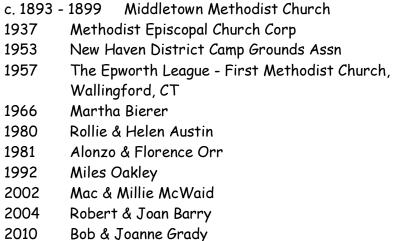


c. 1893 - 1899 East Pearl St. Methodist Church, New Haven

1957 Plainville Camp Grounds Assn1960 John M. Parker Memorial Chapel

In 1957, renovations began on the cottage formally owned by East Pearl Street Methodist Church of New Haven and on Aug 15, 1960 was dedicated as the John M. Parker Memorial Chapel. John M. Parker was a founding member of the Camp Meeting Association in 1866 and served for 40 years. The Chapel serves as the spiritual center for the Campgrounds and contains numerous memorials to past camp members. Services are held each Sunday in July & August. In 1966, Lena Taylor was designated Camp Chaplain and served until 1981. Gail Hilliard, the current Camp Chaplain, has served since 1989. The second floor serves as a meeting room.







c. 1893 - 1899 Forestville Methodist Church
1937 New Haven District Camp Ground Assn Library
1979 Forestville Library Assn
1991 Charles & Shirley Cellar
2006 Guy & Diane Gunther

It took us three years to renovate the cottage, but it was all worth it. We are so lucky. We have the best life ever!

Six months in Florida and six months in Plainville. We can't say enough about the campground!! The people here are special. The activities are many. You may find yourself too busy!! What else

#### 2 Clinton Ave 16 Clinton Ave Cathedral



1911	Ella Jorey
555	Isabelle Gladding
555	Mrs F L Chapman
1950	Attilio & Alice Betti
1964	Bertha Colburn & Olive Westberg
1971	S. Muriel Budd
1987	Howard & Margaret Lobdell
2012	Tom & Pat Angels



1911	Althea Allen
<b>333</b>	Rev James R Lewis
1946	Reverend A Rawson Holgate
1980	William Barrett & Dennis Mason
1986	Andy & Betty Antonelle
1988	Mary Allen
1992	Pat & Marion Melito
2009	John & Maryann Greenwood
2011	Bill & Olga Coffey
2014	Ted & Donna Kornasiewicz

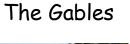
Totally renovated in 2009, the Cottage's arch shaped doors and windows are original along with the arch shape wood porch frames and lacy ornamentation. The inside has all the modern comforts while still retaining a rustic charm.

#### 6 Hartford Ave



1953	Walter Gillette
1966	Plainville Camp Grounds Assn
1972	Clara Austin
1977	Stewart & Greta Fabrizio
1984	Hugh & Doris Ewing
1987	Margaret McMahon
1993	John & Fran McCormick
2000	Donald & Trudy Smith
2003	Evelyn Watson
2012	Harry & Elaine Sherwin

#### 20 Hartford Ave





1910	L G Sheldon (builder)
<b>5</b> 55	Eva Sheldon
1950	Harriet Barrett
1965	Harriet Eaton (daughter of Harriet Barrett)
1988	George Barrett
2013	Alan & Marsha Sherman

We are Connecticut natives who moved to Florida in 2012. Spending summers in our Plainville cottage are enjoyable. The kitchen has the original cast iron stove from 1900. The previous owner installed four electric burners on the stove top. We enjoy sitting in the front porch and back patio.

#### 13 New Haven Ave



E Burns 1911 1923 Fannie Chambers 1925 Burton & Jennie Morey 1936 Ruth W Richards **3333** Robert Hotchkiss 1954 Cara Beale Scranton 1957 Eda Beale 1959 James & Fern Cline 1971 James & Eleanor Hannafin 1980 Ruth Abare 1987 Robert & Gail Hilliard

#### Dining Hall



1903 Original Construction

In 1918 Table board in the spacious Dining Hall costs \$5 per week or \$1 per day.

Today the Dining Hall is used for the Annual Tag Sale, Men's & Women's Breakfasts, the Sanitary Engineers Appreciation Breakfast, Ladies Guild Meetings, exercises classes, and weekly Military Bridge and Wii Bowling Competitions. The Dining Hall also is available to members for family gatherings, and group celebrations.















