

Trowbridge Renaissance

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



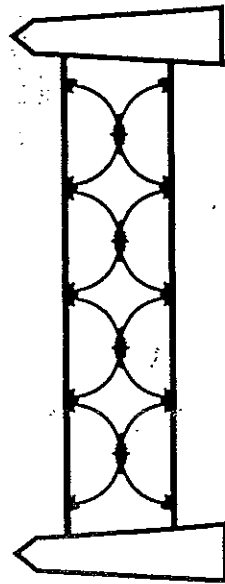
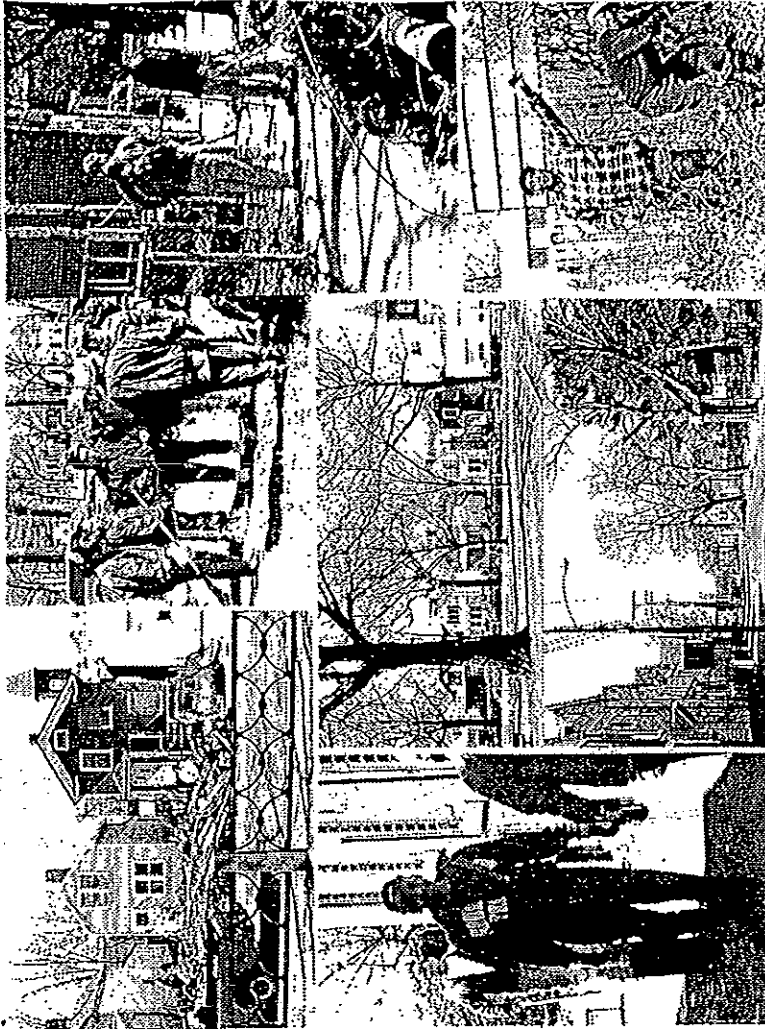
Best New Neighborhood Revival

On paper it's beautiful. On a sunny day in real life you can still see why, in the 1800s, Trowbridge Square was such a treasure, and why it still has such potential.

A mini-replica of the downtown Green and nine squares, the neighborhood hidden near the train station and behind Howard Avenue in New Haven was built as a model integrated working-class community, *before* abolition, by Simeon Jocelyn. It hit hard times in the 1980s

Now a fired-up new neighborhood group, boosted by ECCO (Elm City Congregations Organized), has helped the cops clean out drug dealers. It has led the city's Livable City Initiative to knock down abandoned buildings. It has organized park cleanups and in general brought new energy and hope to a stretch of town that's worth it.

THE NEW HAVEN ADVOCATE MAY 6, 1999



In the 1830's, Trowbridge Square became an early example of urban integration, where African-American and white workers lived in the same neighborhood. The community had two rules: *No discrimination and no liquor.*

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Trowbridge Renaissance promotes the development of new and restored housing in the District. We are opposed to further demolition in the District, unless it is first approved by our Neighborhood Plan. We want to increase the population of the neighborhood by rehabilitating vacant houses and apartments and by building new individual homes and play spaces on Putnam Street and Columbus Avenue. We do not support the construction of additional apartment buildings in the Historic District. We envision a community that provides various types of housing, at least 50% of which is owner-occupied. We support new and rehabilitated housing that is of good quality and of appropriate scale and architecture for the neighborhood.

We intend to develop new streetscapes and owner-occupied homes on the vacant lots of Putnam Street and Columbus Avenue. These will be individual homes with yards and off-street parking. We intend to rehabilitate and sell existing vacant homes on Liberty, Salem, Portsea, Carlisle, and Edgar Streets. Trowbridge Renaissance wants to help owners of existing rental properties upgrade their units in order to stabilize the rental market.

BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Trowbridge Renaissance supports the development of small retail and service businesses in the area. We have identified approximately 20 existing commercial sites in the area, 50% of which are either vacant or currently used as residences. We want to see new family-friendly, non-polluting businesses operating at existing commercial sites. Trowbridge Renaissance is opposed to large-scale commercial development in the neighborhood, but we support modest commercial development at the periphery of the District.



139 Carlisle Street
New Haven, CT 06519

Trowbridge Renaissance

Trowbridge Renaissance is a group of local leaders who have organized to bring about the rebirth of the Trowbridge Square Neighborhood. Originally named the Village of Spireworth, the neighborhood retains much of its 19th century character. Trowbridge Square is a small, mostly residential neighborhood, conveniently situated near downtown New Haven, Yale University, and Union Station. The neighborhood includes the Trowbridge Square Historic District (bounded by Columbus Avenue, Church Street South, Rosette Street, and Howard Avenue) and several adjacent blocks. The vision of Trowbridge Renaissance is to see the Trowbridge Square Neighborhood reborn as an urban village.

Some elements of our vision are:

RESIDENT-LED PLANNING AND DESIGN

Residents have organized in order to have power to control land use and the future design of the neighborhood. We have created a Neighborhood Plan for guiding the rebirth and development of our neighborhood. We monitor all development in the neighborhood to make sure it fits with the village concept and with the unique character of the Trowbridge Square Historic District. We work in partnership with other organizations who are committed to help residents achieve our goals and who recognize that the local community must have ultimate control over development of the village. Our neighborhood is being reborn, because a new kind of power has been reborn among those of us who live and work here.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

The restoration of the public square and its surrounding area is a key to the rebirth of our community. We intend to restore the cast iron fence, improve the pathways and light fixtures, and install appropriate benches and trash receptacles. Trowbridge Renaissance will assist property owners, especially those near the park, to restore the exteriors of their buildings. We intend to restore a vacant worker's cottage near the square and establish a museum to showcase the abolitionist, Simeon Jocelyn, who founded the neighborhood in 1830. Jocelyn played an important role in the famous Amistad Affair, and we are working to erect a monument that will commemorate that event, as well as the unique heritage of the Trowbridge Square neighborhood.