

**DEDICATION OF PUTNAM HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT MARKER**

**Wednesday, July 12, 2017**

**Noon**

**Sidewalk in front of Tomes-Higgins House, 216 East Putnam Avenue  
Greenwich**

The Greenwich Historical Society and the Greenwich Preservation Network will dedicate a new historic district marker that outlines the history of the Putnam Hill Historic District, July 12 at noon. Elected officials, historic preservationists, Greenwich residents and others will gather to dedicate the permanent marker, located on the sidewalk in front of the Tomes-Higgins House, 216 East Putnam Avenue.

The marker is sponsored by “The Townies,” a small group of Greenwich citizens bonded by their love of the town. Charles Hilton Architects donated the design and Cornerstone Contracting donated its services to install the marker.

**Putnam Hill Historic District**

The Putnam Hill Historic District joined the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Once the center of the town of Greenwich, the district is named for General Israel Putnam, a Revolutionary War hero who in 1779 evaded pursuing British soldiers by riding from Knapp's Tavern down the steep hill to Stamford where he alerted the militia. General Putnam's military feats are honored with the naming of Putnam Avenue (original King's Highway), Putnam Cottage (Knapp's Tavern), and Putnam Hill Park. His famous ride is depicted on the seal of the Town of Greenwich.

Architecturally significant buildings in the district include the Second Congregational Church (1856), designed by Leopold Eidlitz; Calvert Vaux's 1861 Tomes-Higgins House (later Christ Church parsonage); and the 1909 Christ Church, by William S. Domenick, featuring Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass windows. These grand structures are situated amongst stately trees, granite walls, and expansive lawns on one of the few remaining greenswards along Route 1 in Fairfield County.

In the district and listed separately on the National Register, the circa 1700 Putnam Cottage/Knapp's Tavern was a home, farm, and tavern that has welcomed George Washington and John Adams among other notable visitors.

**Greenwich Preservation Network**

The Greenwich Preservation Network was founded under the auspices of the Greenwich Historical Society with a mission to educate and provide information to Greenwich residents regarding the value in preserving significant architectural and historic structures and streetscapes.

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