

# Basic Detail Report

## THE HARTFORD STUDIES PROJECT (Telephone 860-297-5196)

Begun in 1990, the project combines the talents of Hartford area scholars, photographers, oral historians, teachers, and graduate and undergraduate students. It is committed to the recovery of the history of race and ethnicity, religion and immigration, and to the critical analysis of class and power relationships in the city. Our work investigates social and cultural problems such as the history of charity and public health care, employment and unionization, popular forms of leisure and religion, and state and regional politics as they shaped Hartford's destiny.

We have established an on-going oral history of Hartford residents focussing on the 1930's, and a slide collection of 1500 images of the city's past and present. These projects have been undertaken with the assistance of many institutions and individuals throughout the city. A Trinity course in Hartford history is jointly offered in history, American Studies, and sociology, and incorporates a speakers' program and off-campus work as supplements to traditional course work. This course will be offered again in the summer of 1996. Project members have assisted in the development of the sixth grade World Cities curricula in the city's schools. The Project also offers public presentations and slide shows to historical societies, school groups and other interested parties.

Our plans for 1996-97 include the expansion of our oral history and photography work, continued collaboration with the Stowe Center and the Hartford Collection of the Hartford Public Library, and the development of a two day conference on local history. We hope to provide historical documentation on the Frog Hollow area in conjunction with Trinity's wider commitments.

### Project members' activities

Susan Pennybacker, project director, and Nancy Albert, project photographer, collaborated on "East Side Story", published in the July 2, 1995 issue of Northeast Magazine. Pennybacker continues her involvement with the Hartford public schools "cities" curriculum, and is currently writing a piece on a murder case in Hartford at the turn of the century. Albert, a Trinity alumna, is the University coordinator of Wesleyan University, and continues to photograph images of Hartford in public and private collections as well as to document life in the city today. ... Peter Baldwin is a PhD candidate at Brown University. His dissertation in progress is titled, "Off the Street: Reforming the Use of Public Space in Hartford Connecticut, 1850-1930." ... Jose Cruz, who teaches in the Department of Political Science at SUNY Albany, is publishing "A Decade of Change: Puerto Rican Politics in Hartford, 1969-1979" in the Journal of American Ethnic History, Spring 1997; also forthcoming is a monograph, Identity and Power: Hartford, Puerto Ricans and the Challenge of Ethnicity. ... Paul Deslandes, who just completed his PhD at the University of Toronto, will be working with archival specialist Bruce Clouette on the Institute of Living's exhibition about that hospital's history in Hartford. The

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