

Out&About

2021 Manchester Preservation Awards

Six Manchester properties recently received recognition for historic maintenance and renovation "in a manner that preserves historic values and character." The awards were presented at a May 19 reception at Northwest Park by the Cheney Brothers National Historic Landmark District Commission, an advisory commission appointed by the town to promote, encourage, and secure the preservation and rehabilitation of the District. The commission has presented local awards since 2001. Here are photos of the the award-winning properties and in some cases the owners who were presented their awards by Starr McLean, chairperson of the Commission's award committee.



A bungalow, circa 1921, at 16 Bigelow Street, owned by George and Lynda Brown, who bought the house from the DeCarly family in 2005. They call their house "Woodside Bungalow," and have enjoyed its location, very close to Center Springs Park. The house is substantially unchanged since 1921.



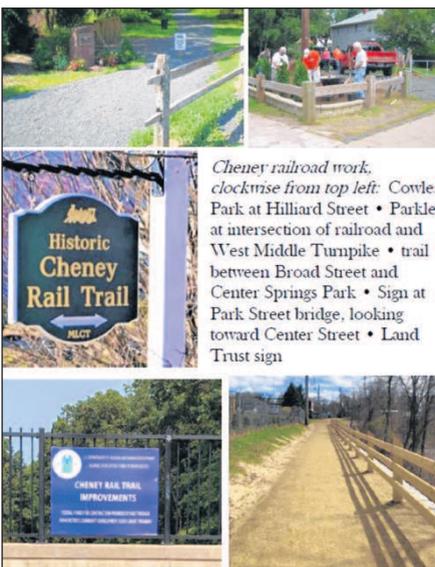
A circa 1835 bungalow at 115 Diane Drive, owned by Marie and Dana LeMay since 1978. The house was originally part of the Cheney Farm, a residence for the farm manager, and was on 105 Farm Drive. When a 100-unit housing development was built in 1957, the address changed. During the awards ceremony, Dana mentioned that he had told his son, an architect, that they were going to get vinyl siding for the house; the son nixed that idea, and the house remains in its current, historic state.



A cross-gabled vernacular house, circa 1886, at 54 Hudson Street, owned by David Lacoss since 1973. The Manchester Historic and Architectural Inventory describes the house as having "several attractive decorative details, typifying the eclectic picturesque nature of many of these late nineteenth-century homes. The structure rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed with clapboards. The building incorporates an offset entry with twin round-arched glass panels and a corner entry porch with turned columns and sawn brackets."



The former South Manchester Railroad, which operated from 1869 into the 1980s, has been put back together as a public rail trail, and renovated by the Land Trust from 2005 to 2021, and by the town from 2012 to 2021. The preservation has included a park-like entrance at the southern end, re-opening of the trestle across Center Street, a bridge overlooking Center Springs Park, and two parklets in the northern section of the trail. Accepting the award, pictured left to right, Malcolm Barlow for the Land Trust, and for the town, Rob Topliff, Parks and Recreation facilities manager; Jeff LaMalva, town engineer; and Scott Clairmont, field services superintendent.



A wood-shingled gambrel-roofed house, top right, circa 1811, at 634 Woodbridge Street, owned by Cynthia Merrill. This 1 1/2-story vernacular-style residence rests on a brownstone ashlar foundation.



A wood-shingled cottage-style house, bottom right, c. 1930, at 57 Boulder Road, owned since 2019 by Lauren Brooks. The Manchester Historic and Architectural Inventory describes this as a picturesque and eclectic residence. It was built as part of a small subdivision known as "Greenhill Estates."



Neither owners were able to attend the ceremony.

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