

Main Street Landmarks  
New Canaan Preservation Alliance

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1804: Benoni St., John House and Store, 102 Main Street (corner East Ave), a rare survivor of the devastating 1899 fire that destroyed most of that side of Main Street.



1840: Temperance Hall/ Morgue (Thrift Shop), 2 Locust Ave, in Greek Revival style



1859: Vine Cottage, 61 Main St, in the Gothic style of A.J. Downing's design books, with Queen Anne turrets and diamond paned windows added probably in the 1880's. It separates the commercial part of town from the historic residential district.



1868: Baptist Church/Masonic Lodge at 62 Main St, built in the Gothic Style ... and in 1917 remodeled into a small Greek temple for the Masons by member William Boring, Architect.

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1881: Episcopal Rectory at 51 Main St, designed in the Stick Style—with exterior decorative boards—usually painted a contrasting color—suggesting interior structural elements, and separating the flat surface plane into sections of cut shingles and clapboard. It marks the beginning of the Local Historic District.



1882: Rogers Block, at 88-90 Main St., has an intact Italianate cornice, upper windows and first floor cast iron front with fan-light over centered door and original display windows. Built by Henry Rogers for his manufacture of bicycle sportswear; 1903 it became a shoe factory and probably that is when the second floor “Chicago style” windows were installed to allow more light inside. The late Modern architect Victor Christ-Janer owned the building and had his offices here.

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1909 & 1937: Town Hall, at 77 Main St., was designed by NYC architect Edgar Josselyn, following a competition among 17 architects, establishing the Colonial Revival style in New Canaan. Federal style fan and side lights, pilasters and elaborate door casings embellish the mosaic floored vestibule and the entrance hall. Josselyn was also the architect for the 1905 Stamford Town Hall.



1934: Walter Bradnee Kirby, a New Canaan architect, painted two mural-maps for the Assembly Room, framed with an enormous sculpted Art Deco frame by A. Drexler Jacobsen, destroyed in 1963 when the ceiling was lowered.

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1913: at 87 Main St., the New Canaan Savings Bank was built in Colonial Revival style with delicate Adamesque capitals and sandstone plaques. It was designed by the Hodgson Brothers of New York, specialists in bank design. Additions were made in 1921, 1941, and 1952. The 1859 New Canaan Savings Bank had been moved from this site in 1913 and is now the temple-fronted part of 50 Coins Restaurant on Locust Ave.



1913: New Canaan Library, at 151 Main St., was designed by Alfred Taylor Architect in NYC, who also lived in New Canaan on Ponus Ridge. It's an outstanding and unique example of Neo-classical revival style constructed with irregular fieldstone blocks instead of brick.



1937: Fire House at 60 Main St. was designed by Walter Bradnee Kirby, AIA, an architect who lived and practiced in New Canaan, designing residences from the 1912 Great Barrington Estate of William Hall Walker and the 1926 Pepperidge Farm French Norman style estate for the Rudkins in Southport, as well as their first factory in Norwalk, to the Cotswold cottages and small Colonial Revival houses in New Canaan. He also painted the murals in the Town Hall in 1934. The Fire House, designed in the Colonial Revival style, has an especially elaborate limestone entry in the recessed pavilion to the right. It sits on the location of the three-story church-like "Big Shop" built in 1824, one of New Canaan's largest shoe manufactories.