

UPPER HOUSATONIC VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA, INC

ANNUAL REPORT - 2001

UHVNHA completed its first full year of activities with considerable progress having been made towards the goal of being designated as a National Heritage Area. We first met with representatives of the National Park Service in February and by June Jim O'Connell, Community Planner with the NPS in Boston, had begun his study of the Upper Housatonic Valley.

We supplied information about the special heritage of the area and of our thoughts on an appropriate coordinating organization. Mr. O'Connell has visited the area on numerous occasions and organized the successful November 17 public meeting at the Norman Rockwell Museum. We will continue to work with him as he prepares his report. We will also continue to evolve as an active heritage area, with a History Fair planned for May.

During the year Board Members participated in numerous meetings to explain and seek support for our efforts. By year end more than two hundred organizations, local governments and individuals had signed on as official supporters, with the list continuing to grow. We have the support of State legislators and commissioners.

UHVNHA has a ten member Board of Directors, all of whom plan to continue their activity during the coming year. The Advisory Board is also active, having met in August and October of 2001. The UHVNHA organization will evolve and change as we move towards actual heritage area operations, looking towards the goals of inclusion, efficiency and achievement.

Our financial needs, primarily for our information flier and our newsletter, were covered by generous contributions from the following:

Major Contributors (\$ 1000 or more)

Falls Village - Canaan Historical Society

Salisbury Association

Generous Contributors

Ms. Barbara B. Bartram

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Mr and Mrs David McAllester

Cornwall Association

New Marlborough Historical Society

Ms. Susan E. Lott

Mr and Mrs Hector Prud'homme

Thomas and Harriet Shachtman

Mr and Mrs Clarence Roberts

Sharon Woman's Club

Sharon Historical Society

Ms. Gabriel N. Seymour

Sharon Land Trust

Our financial needs be greater during the coming year, as we plan to start a part time Staff. To date all activity has been accomplished by volunteers but we now need professional time and coordination. We are seeking further contributions and grants to cover the cost of moving forward.

Ronald D. Jones, Chairman