Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why Local Historic Districts?
   In local districts, any proposed change to a building must be reviewed to make sure the change will not alter the unique character of the district. Local districts can preserve a town's heritage, encourage better design of new structures, promote neighborhood identity and pride, provide a forum for owners to comment on proposed changes to their neighborhood, and increase property values by protecting the investments of owners of historic buildings in the districts.

2. How old does a building have to be to be considered historic?
   50 years

3. What's the difference between the Cheshire Historical Society and the Historic District Commission?
   The CHS is a private group, based at the Hitchcock Phillips House on the Green, with membership open to all. The HDC is a town commission composed of eight appointed members which conducts design reviews of proposed changes in buildings within the two historic districts. It conducts its business from the Planning Department in the Town Hall. Both groups work in different ways toward the preservation of historic resources.

For more information on the Historic District Commission, the local historic districts, and the preservation of historic buildings, please call the Planning Department 271-6670 and ask for Jerry Sitko or email cheshirehdc@cheshirect.org.

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South Brooksvale Historic District
bears the earmarks of its rural heritage - rolling hayfields, stone wall boundaries, woods and meadow where Mountain Brook flows under the curving stone bridge.

South Brooksvale Road
(first centerfold)

Cornwall Avenue-Town Center
(second, larger centerfold)

2. **621 South Brooksvale**, c.1900. Restored 1979, Colonial Revival, on the former Bradley Farm.
3. **Snow House**, c.1866. Late Greek Revival, owned by a cousin of the Brooks family.

2. George Keeley. 1875. stove shop (L), Victorian Vernacular and House (R) 1860. Italianate.


7. 107 Cornwall Avenue. 1855. Greek Revival. Later Colonial details attributed to Alice Washburn.

8. 131 Cornwall Avenue. 1863. Greek Revival, changed to Colonial Revival in 1910.


17. Wm. Moon House. 1857. Vernacular Farmhouse. 3rinite miner, tenant then owner.


32. Rufus Hitchcock Store. 1785. Grocery store for 188 years. Old building can be seen behind present facade.


See back page for buildings 38, 39, 40, & 41.