

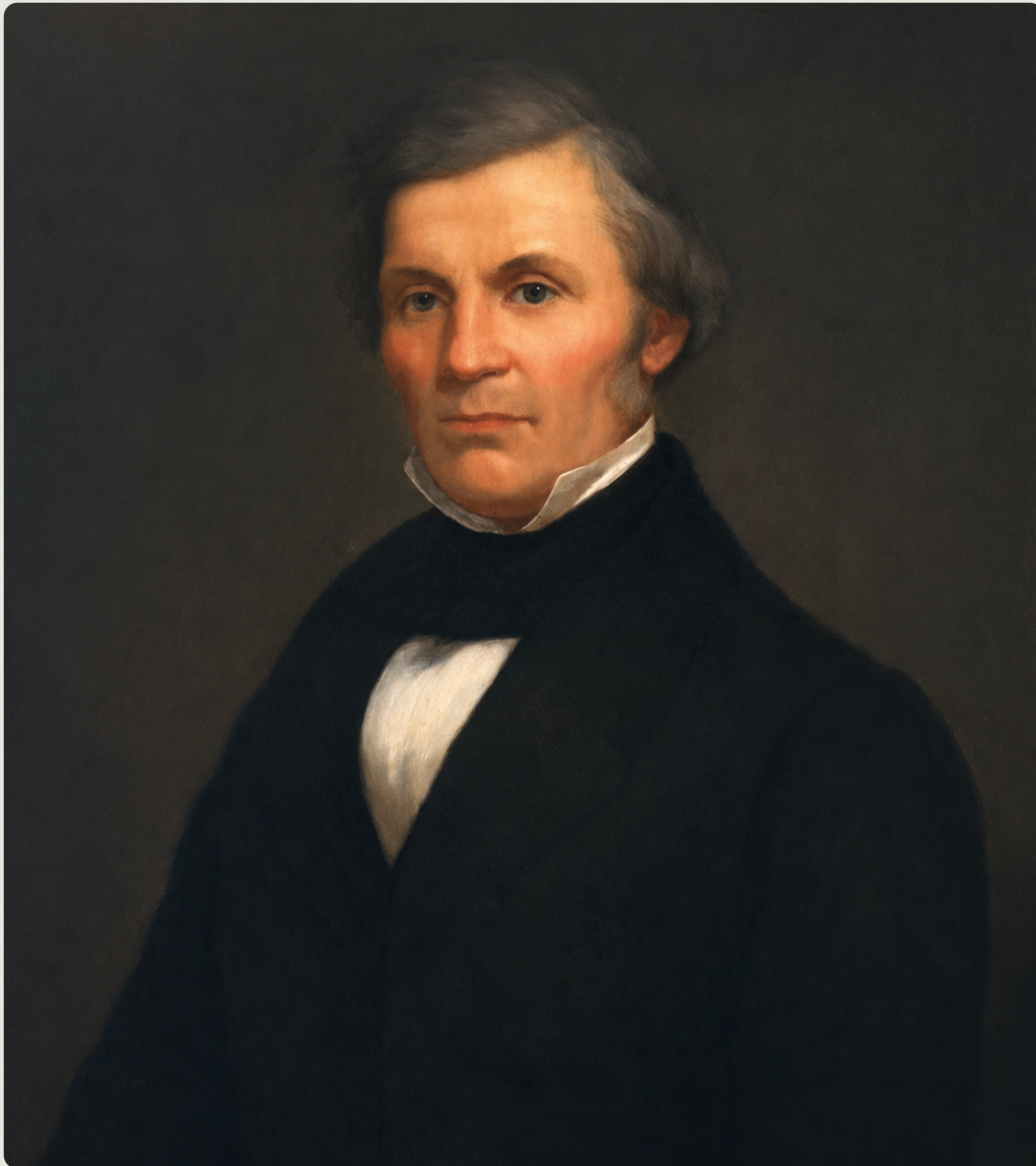
68 FEDERAL STREET

Nearly Two Centuries of History in the Heart of New London

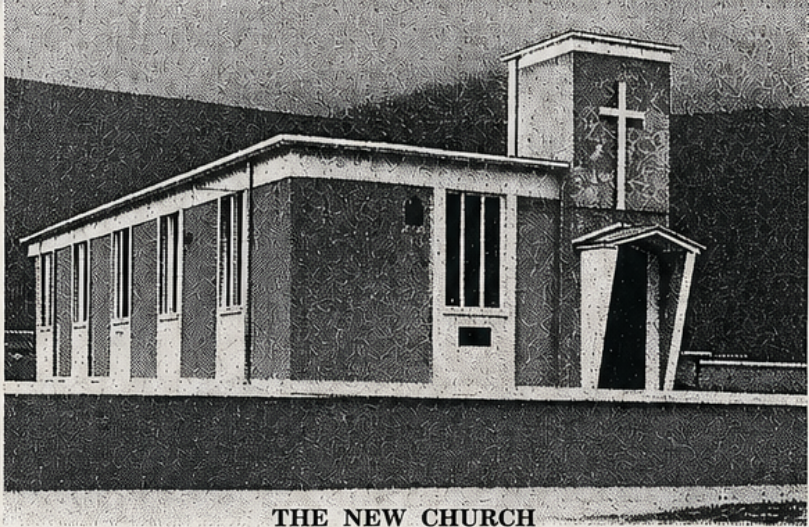
ACORS BARNES – 1837

Built in an Era of Prosperity

Prominent New London merchant Acors Barnes had this Greek Revival home built in 1837, during the height of the city’s whaling era. Barnes co-founded one of New London’s largest whaling firms before turning his attention to other ventures, including the Bank of Commerce, which he founded in 1852. The house remained in the Barnes family for more than 80 years and reflected the prosperity of one of New London’s leading merchant families.



Emigrant Provides New Church For Home Parish



THE NEW CHURCH

SEVENTY years ago, when she was about 20, Julia O’Sullivan emigrated to America from the little townland of Jussa, Emilaghmore, in the Iveragh Peninsula.

She never came back to her native Kerry but she made good and now, nearly 90 years of age, she is a wealthy woman.

She started life in the United States in a textile factory, invented a special process of weaving, (she had learned it from her mother and the weavers who worked as journeymen in Kerry farmhouses) and has now her own chain of factories.

Last week a new church was blessed and opened in Rathkieran, not far from Emilaghmore, where Julia was born. The building cost £10,690 and the furnishings cost another £2,000.

Every penny of the expense was paid by the little emigrant girl who had left the place so long ago.



Very Rev. E. Fitzpatrick, P.P., locks the door of the old church after celebrating the last Mass

Obituary

MISS JULIA O’SULLIVAN

Retired Dressmaker Dies in Her 90th Year

Miss Julia O’Sullivan, 89, a retired dressmaker, died yesterday afternoon at Sisters of Holy Ghost Convalescent Home, Montville.

Miss O’Sullivan, who had been in failing health for two and a half years, last lived at 68 Federal St., but was at Beechwood Manor for two years before going to the Montville home four weeks ago.

Born in September, 1868, in County Kerry, Ireland, daughter of Patrick and Mary Shea O’Sullivan, she came to this city as a young girl, and had lived in this area since.

JULIA O’SULLIVAN – 1919

From Ireland to New London

In 1919, Irish-born Julia O’Sullivan purchased the home, beginning a new chapter in its history. An immigrant from County Kerry, O’Sullivan became a successful dressmaker in New London. She also maintained ties to her native Ireland; historical accounts credit Julia and her sister Johanna with contributing more than \$10,000 toward the construction of the Church of the Sacred Heart in The Glen, County Kerry. Her story adds an early tradition of generosity to the history of 68 Federal Street.

THE MCGUIRE FAMILY – 1956

Preserving a New London Landmark

Francis McGuire purchased 68 Federal Street in 1956 and adapted the historic residence for use as his law offices. As much of downtown New London was transformed by urban renewal in the decades that followed, the former Barnes home was saved. The McGuire family’s determination and stewardship helped preserve its distinctive architecture and historic character, allowing a rare piece of 19th-century New London to endure.

THE NEW LONDON, CONN., EVENING DAY, TUES



BUILT UP TO BE KNOCKED DOWN?—As houses go, these two are old but they have been restored and they are well-kept and in good shape, thus they are the reasons for a disagreement between the Redevelopment Agency and a doctor and a lawyer. Atty. Morgan K. McGuire and Dr. Carl H. Wies have urged the agency to save such old buildings in each li McGuire, has h at 115 Huntin voted to inclu

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT – 2013

Continuing a Tradition of Stewardship



In 2013, the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut purchased 68 Federal Street from James McGuire, becoming the latest steward of this historic property. Today, a home built during New London’s whaling era serves a new purpose: bringing people together to strengthen communities across Eastern Connecticut. From this historic setting, the Foundation carries forward a legacy of stewardship, generosity and investment in the region’s future.