

Mercy Housing and Shelter Corporation

St. Elizabeth House: Retaining Wall Out and Historical Front Lawn In

With concerns over the structural integrity of a four foot high retaining wall bordering a public sidewalk and bus stop, Mercy kicked off a planned phased renovation of St. Elizabeth House. This phase calls for restoring the front lawn to an appearance similar to when the structure was first built in 1807. The lawn will slope from St. Elizabeth House down to Main Street to a wrought iron fence. Stairs will be restored to the Main Street front, plantings and new lighted will be added, and a sidewalk ramp will allow the building to be handicapped accessible from Main Street. Handicapped guests currently circle the block and access the building from Charter Oak Place.

An early June completion have been dashed due to the need to replace the main water line to the building. The water line was not as deep as required. So we took the opportunity to increase the water pressure to the building and replace the line from Main Street at an optimal depth. Mountain View Landscaping, the project general contractor, is awaiting permission from the City to start laying cement for the stairway and a small retaining wall that will separate the handicapped sidewalk from the building.

This phase of the renovations are fueled with funding from the City of Hartford. Vital gap funding was provided with private donations from the stewards of the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Thibadeau Family Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.



Sr. Patricia McKeon, Mercy Executive Director; Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez; Catherine Mohan, Mercy Board of Trustee and Capital Campaign Co-Chairperson; John Rossi, Congressman John Larson's District Chief of Staff; Sharon O'Meara, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving Program Officer; and Phil Barlow, design consultant, TO-Design, took part in a ceremonial ground breaking.