

HARTFORD

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT SUCCESS STORIES

No.
416



87-89 ATWOOD STREET ASYLUM HILL

Hartford, CT

Historic
Preservation



87-89 Atwood Street began its life as a ‘Perfect Six’ apartment building. Built in 1911, it sported a yellow brick façade, double-bay front, and classical sheet metal cornice that are the hallmarks of this quintessential Hartford building style.

These elements made this structure stand out in what is otherwise a predominantly Victorian Asylum Hill neighborhood. By the time it was condemned

by the City of Hartford in 1997, however, it had been reduced to a 33-room boarding house with a roof that was on the verge of collapse. The City was moments away from demolishing the structure.



With the help of **Community Investment Act** funds, **which created twenty-five jobs**, Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA) was able to save this structure from the wrecking ball and convert it into two

side-by-side, single-family townhomes (a “Perfect Two,” if you will).

87-89 Atwood Street stands as a prime example of what can be done to preserve historic structures and to create new home-ownership opportunities in a neighborhood that has a nine-percent homeowner-ship rate.

The restoration of this Perfect Six builds on earlier work done in Asylum Hill by NINA and its partners, including the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and CT Housing Financing Authority with whom the Trust partnered on the gap investment. Through the use of CIA funds, NINA has preserved a part of Asylum Hill’s rich architectural heritage.



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The Community Investment Act, enacted in 2005, stimulates private investment to protect our natural, agricultural, and historic resources, and to assist affordable housing. CIA funds come from a surcharge on real estate document recording fees. They are then invested in agriculture viability, dairy farm support, historic preservation, open space, farmland, affordable housing, Local Capital Improvement Projects and Town Clerk records management.