

# SIMSBURY • LEDYARD

## THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT SUCCESS STORIES

No  
196



### PRESERVE AMERICA

Simsbury & Ledyard, CT

Historic  
Preservation



Funds from the **Community Investment Act (CIA)** helped to leverage federal funds available through the **Preserve America** program. The Preserve America program allows designated municipalities to apply for federal grants.

Once it was designated a Preserve America community, **Simsbury** undertook a comprehensive heritage tourism marketing campaign that included brochures, a moveable kiosk, marketing portfolio and website. This project was funded in part by \$30,000 from the Community Investment Act and \$50,000 from Preserve America.

Simsbury is one of Connecticut's oldest communities. The town was incorporated as Connecticut's twenty-first town in May 1670. The population in Simsbury has grown from 5,000 in 1950 to today's population of over 23,000. While Simsbury has experienced development in the past few decades, the Town government has been sensitive to maintaining the rural environment and historic charm that makes Simsbury the quintessential New England Community.



Another Preserve America town, **Ledyard**, has begun an innovative project to digitize the Historic Resources Inventory of the town. \$30,000 from the CIA was leveraged by \$59,000 from Preserve America.

Ledyard is a suburban community within a quiet rural niche of Southeastern Connecticut. Abundant single-family residences, separated by numerous red maple swamps and rocky, rugged uplands characterize the settlement of Ledyard. Ledyard is situated halfway between New York and Boston, and is in the midst of many cultural attractions, recreational facilities, golf courses, and beaches.

Funds from Preserve America and the Community Investment Act are available for preservation planning as well. Finding new uses for familiar buildings promotes a meaningful relationship between people and their hometown environment. Preservation provides an exciting way of strengthening our communities that is also environmentally and economically responsible.

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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.