Stamford Historical Q Society | 1508 HIGH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 21, 2010

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## Hoyt-Barnum House Opens To The Public During July And August

## Stamford Historical Society Condensing Public Hours at Headquarters

**STAMFORD, CT – June 21, 2010** – Come touch the past this summer at the Hoyt-Barnum House, 713 Bedford Street (near North Street) in downtown Stamford! Built in 1699 by Samuel Hoyt, a blacksmith, farmer, and the grandson of some of Stamford's founders, the Hoyt-Barnum House is the oldest surviving structure in the City and a national historic landmark.

"It's hard to realize that the City of Stamford is 369 years old this year," says Pam Coleman, Chairmen of the Board of Directors of the Stamford Historical Society. "We were founded in 1641, but there is little remaining evidence of our beginnings. While these days are difficult for many people in our city, life was much tougher 300 years ago, and The Stamford Historical Society would like to provide that perspective to as many people as possible this summer."

Normally open by appointment only, The Stamford Historical Society will be opening the Hoyt-Barnum House to the public every Friday from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM beginning Friday July 2 and continuing through Friday September 3. Tours will be conducted on the hour. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for members, seniors and children.

**Changes in the public hours at the Society's headquarters at 1508 High Ridge Road will also begin July 1.** The Society's research library and exhibit galleries will now be open Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and on Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM throughout the year.

"Like many non-profit organizations, the Society has been hard hit by reduced financial support in these difficult economic times," continued Coleman. "Unfortunately, the City of Stamford, our primary backer since we are the municipal historian for the City, has had to make significant cuts to outside agencies including ours. We are looking at every way to conserve our resources without jeopardizing our services to the Stamford community. So we have expanded our hours on our usually busiest days, and cut hours on those days when we have fewer visitors."

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The Stamford Historical Society is an educational and research institution whose primary functions are to collect, preserve, conserve, interpret, and exhibit materials relating to Stamford, Connecticut and the surrounding area. As the City of Stamford's history center, the Society is dedicated to providing opportunities for the community to understand and experience the past through the presentation of exhibits and displays, lectures, demonstrations, special events and participatory programs. For more information, visit our website at <u>www.stamfordhistory.org</u>

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