

AH Then & Now 21 Ashley St

As part of AHNA's 20th Anniversary it seems right to feature some of the most iconic changes that have occurred over the past 20 years. This photo on the right shows the boarded up apartment building that was at 21 Ashley St in 1995. What isn't shown is the context, the beautiful Victorian homes nearby. The next photo, from July 2004, shows the house from Aetna that was surrounded by parking lot, being



moved to what by then had become an empty lot. This was a cooperative effort that involved many partners of AHNA. Aetna contributed the house itself and the money that

would have been spent to demolish it, the City and State contributed additional funds, the vacant land was donated, and NINA, the newly formed nonprofit charged with creating homeownership, did the work of turning the newly situated structure into a homeownership opportunity and a home.

The Giadone family purchased the property in 2006 and moved in, adding

to the neighborhood both a beautiful and well-maintained home, but also two new homeowners who have been active supporters of Asylum Hill progress ever since.

The last photo is from 2012 when 21 Ashley participated in the Vest Pocket Garden landscaping challenge and more than a dozen homes on Ashley St received landscaping all in one weekend. This also was a partnership of Hartford Blooms, AHNA and NINA to further improve the appearance of the street and call attention to the progress of Asylum Hill.

