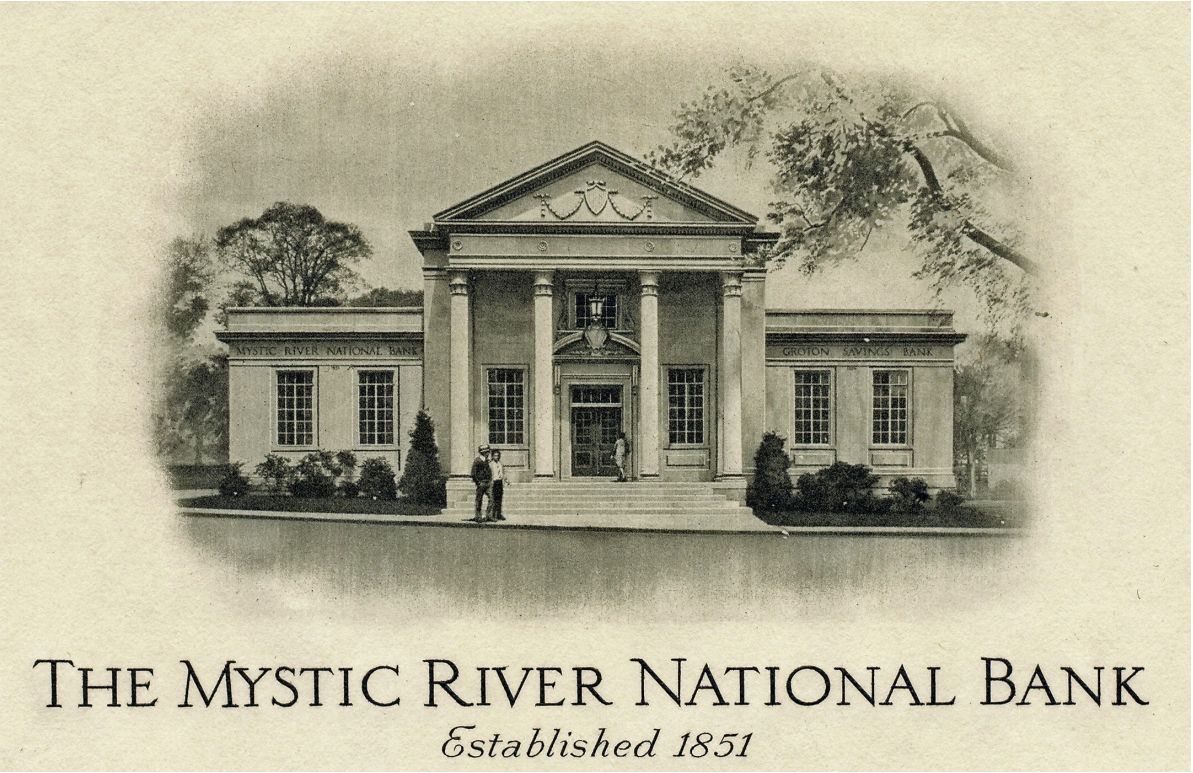
The Mystic River Bank: History Through Architecture

Presented by Bill Kraus



Join us Wednesday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.

Mystic Congregational Church

On Wednesday, December 2, 2026, the Mystic River Historical Society will present a talk by Bill Kraus on the history and architecture of the former Mystic River National Bank at 7:00pm in the parish hall of the Mystic Congregational Church. Refreshments will be available at 6:30pm. The program is free for all MRHS members, with a suggested donation of $10 for non-members. For further information please email us at info@mystichistory.org or call 860-536-4779.

The Mystic River Bank was established on West Main Street in August 1851, with shipbuilder Charles Mallory serving as its first president. The bank's founding signaled "Lower Mystic's" emergence as a commercial center in the area. Since that time, the bank (and the building) have been closely tied to Mystic's commercial development. It was converted to the Mystic River National Bank in 1864, at the height of the shipbuilding industry in Mystic. When the Mystic River National Bank's new Neoclassical granite bank building was completed in 1931, it shared its facilities with the Groton Savings Bank and in 1950 merged with the Hartford National Bank.

Mr. Kraus' talk will include an analysis of the building's ingenious, erudite and deceptively simple design, the Mystic River National Bank's and the Groton Savings Bank's century-long central, and sometimes unusual, role in Mystic's history. In addition, Kraus will share the stories of some of the people involved with the banks' founding and leadership, particularly three generations of Noyes family members and their unwitting role in the Mystic River National Bank's ultimate demise.

Mr. Kraus is a real estate development and historic preservation consultant who recently completed a professional analysis of the former Mystic River National Bank building at 54 West Main Street. He holds an MBA with honors from NYU/Stern School of Business, a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, and studied architectural design and urban planning at New York's Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies He is a board member of Connecticut Preservation Action and a past member of the CT Historic Preservation Council.