independentsoftware™

We build products and community. When a local cultural institution wanted to innovate, they chose us.
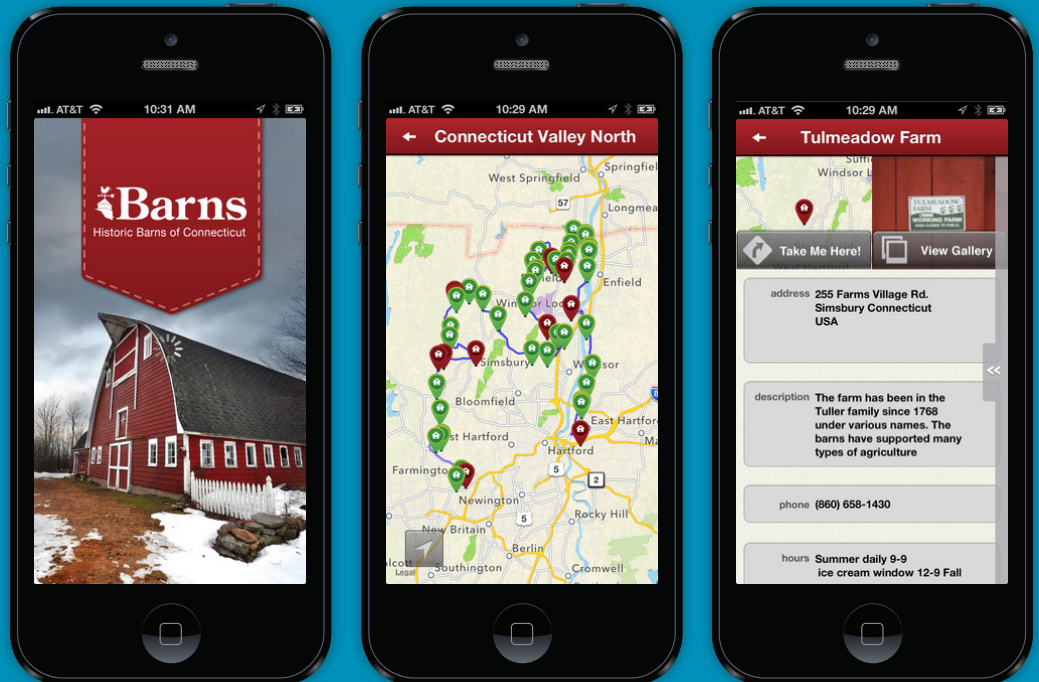
CT·TRUST
FOR HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

The Challenge

In their effort to preserve the state's antique barns, the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation gathered a wealth of information – barn locations, descriptions, historical facts, tourist tips, and photos. They wanted to make this information accessible to the public in an innovative way – revealing a cultural treasure while advancing the Trust's visibility and connectedness as an institution. Specifically, the Trust imagined an interactive, map-based mobile app that would lead users on tours. They asked Independent Software to build it.

Our Work

Working closely with the Trust, Independent Software's Art Director and development team designed and programmed 0the CT Barns iPhone app. The app utilizes native iOS mapping functionality to map the locations of barns in Connecticut, accompanied by Siri voice-directions. We built the app in Objective-C using a model-view-controller (MVC) framework, with curated images streamed from the web using HTTP. The user interface is simple, elegant, and easy to use, including instructional overlay screens.

The Result

Barns
Historic Barns of Connecticut

The Trust released the CT Barns iPhone app in April 2013. Engaging and informative with excellent map functionality, the app helps users explore a rich but little-known aspect of Connecticut's heritage. It also marks a milestone in the Trust's evolution as an educator and cultural guardian. We continue to work with the Trust on updating the app, as well as on preparations for the Android version.