

A Message from Jonathan Kinney, DSHPO

Hello and Happy Spring everyone!

The State Historic Preservation Office is thrilled to announce that the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council (HPC) welcomed a new Chairman and three new members at the April 7, 2021 meeting. The Council, which includes 12 Governor-appointed, citizen-volunteer members, advises DECD on 16 critical historic preservation functions, including the nomination of properties to the State Register of Historic Places, grant awards, and the CT Environmental Protection Act, which allows the HPC to work with the Office of the Attorney General to prevent the "unreasonable destruction" of properties listed on, or under consideration for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places.

The new Chairman is **Mr. Thomas Elmore**, who has served on the HPC since 2018. Mr. Elmore is a landscape architect and the President of Elmore Deign Collaborative, Inc. in Suffield, CT, where his landscape architecture work includes cultural landscape preservation, preservation planning, site planning and design, and 3D LiDAR Scanning and Mapping.

Elizabeth Acly is a structural engineer and the principal and owner of Cirrus Structural Engineering in Columbia, CT. Ms. Acly serves as an engineer for both new and existing buildings constructed of a variety of historic materials and is responsible for all aspects of the investigation, design, and construction administration processes. Ms. Acly brings technical preservation expertise and a desire to support the preservation of historic structures to the Council.

Elizabeth Burgess is the Director of Collections and Research at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford, CT, where she has served in a variety of roles since starting with the organization in 2000. Currently, Ms. Burgess is responsible for all the Center's collections, three historic buildings and a 2.5-acre landscape in the context of the Stowe Center's mission, strategic plan, and collections policy.

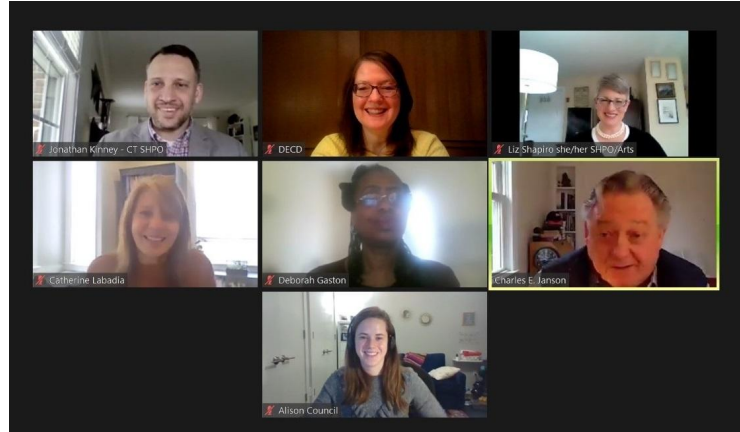
Ellen Zoppo-Sassu is the current Mayor of the City of Bristol, CT, where historic preservation is a critical component of municipal policies. During Mayor Zoppo-Sassu's previous service as a member of City Council, she chaired the Ordinance Committee when the City passed a demolition delay ordinance, created the City's first historic district, and promoted a preservation ethic that is now prevalent in various land use and development policies. Mayor Zoppo-Sassu also served as the Development Director for the Bristol Historical Society for over 10 years, working to restore the city's first high school (1890) which is now a cultural hub that straddles the city's downtown and the Federal Hill historic neighborhood.

The SHPO would also like to acknowledge the incredible contributions to the Council made by outgoing Chairwoman **Sara Nelson** and outgoing Vice-Chair **Karyn Gilvarg**, both of whom have served on the Council since 2012. Ms. Nelson and Ms. Gilvarg's leadership, professionalism, poise, and experience have contributed greatly to the success of the HPC and to historic preservation efforts statewide.

Please join us in congratulating our new Chairman and our new members and in celebrating the service and accomplishments of Ms. Nelson and Ms. Gilvarg.

Preservation Advocacy Week Recap

Each year in March, SHPO staff, along with members of the CT preservation community travel to Washington, DC to meet with the CT congressional delegation and attend the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) annual meeting. This annual event is a great opportunity to touch base with our members of congress and bring them up to speed on how the Federal Historic Preservation Fund is helping SHPO help Connecticut residents with their historic preservation needs and to provide information on federal legislative initiatives that affect historic preservation at the state level.



This year, because of the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis, the meetings were held virtually. Members of SHPO staff, along with Kathleen Maher, and Charles Janson met with Representative Jim Himes and his staff as well as staff from Representative Rosa DeLauro's office, and Senators Murphy and Blumenthal. As always, the meetings were energizing and informative.

Recent Grant Awards

The following [Survey and Planning Grants](#), funded by the Community Investment Act, were awarded at the April 7 meeting of the Historic Preservation Council (HPC):

Middle Haddam Association - feasibility study for redevelopment of the historic Middle Haddam School (1931)

Congregation Mishkan Israel, Hamden - Condition assessment

Aldrich Free Library, Moosup (Plainfield) - Condition assessment

City of Torrington - Condition assessment for the Yankee Pedlar Inn

First Congregational Church, Madison - Condition assessment

Booth and Dimmock Library, Coventry - Condition assessment

A condition assessment is a valuable tool which provides a prioritized list of capital needs and recommended treatments. It serves as the roadmap to guide an organization through what can sometimes seem like the daunting process of addressing necessary repair and rehabilitation of their valued resource.

The HPC also awarded [Stewardship Relief Grants](#) to the **Arts and Crafts Association of Meriden** (d/b/a Gallery 53) and **Music Mountain, Inc.**

One [Historic Restoration Fund Grant](#) was awarded to **New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society** for the restoration of a foundation at the historic site of their synagogue in Montville.

State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program

The State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (C.G.S. Section 10-416c) is moving forward with a permanent electronic application submission process. Starting on July 1, 2021, the SHPO will no longer accept hard copy applications to the state historic rehab tax credit program. In order to ease the transition, the SHPO is offering two information sessions in which we will discuss the upcoming changes and answer any questions. The two sessions will cover the same material. **The first session will be held on April 29 from 10:00-11:30. The second session will be on May 11 from 10:30-12:00.** If you are interested in attending one of these sessions please email julie.carmelich@ct.gov.

Don't Miss Out! - Upcoming Events

Eric Sloane Museum Virtual Lecture Series April 17th and 24th at 11:00 a.m.

There are two lectures remaining in this month's virtual lecture series: *A Sense of Purpose: The Inspiration and Influence of Eric Sloane* and *Clouds on Museum Walls: Eric Sloane's Painted Landscapes*. To register for the lectures, see below for more information.

Frederick Law Olmsted 200th celebration Watch Party and Panel Discussion April 26th

Watch Olmsted and America's Urban Parks, a documentary narrated by actress Kerry Washington, for free and at your convenience April 24-25, and then join other FLO fans for a live panel discussion. For more information, visit [Olmsted 200](#).

Preservation Connecticut - Virtual CT Preservation Awards May 5th at 6:00 p.m.

The annual CT Preservation Awards will be virtual this year. The awards will recognize outstanding achievement in the preservation and restoration of CT's historic architectural resources. In addition, awards of recognition will be given to individuals and organizations who have made a lasting impact on historic preservation in the state. For more information or to register visit [Preservation CT](#).

News From the State Museums



Prudence Crandall Museum

April 2021 celebrates the 188th anniversary of the 4/1/1833 opening of Crandall's school for African American young women and girls, and the Prudence Crandall Museum would like to share a poignant discovery. Renovation work uncovered significant charring on both a main beam and molding in the location where



the fire was set in the northeast front room on January 28, 1834--not to be confused with the September 9th mob attack that closed the school later that year. That fateful winter day in 1834, Frederick Olney, an African American man who had just delivered a package to one of the students and was fixing a clock in this room for Crandall, sounded the alarm and assisted in extinguishing the flames. Two weeks later he was arrested and charged with setting the fire. He was acquitted, and years later Crandall in a letter to historian Ellen Larned expressed her anger at how "The young man was shamefully abused by that horrid accusation." (3/7/1870, Crandall to Larned, from Mendota, IL). SHPO Deputy Director Jonathan Kinney confirmed the beam is original, and the Museum plans to incorporate a view of the charred corner as part of the visitor experience when it reopens in 2022.



Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine

Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine is opening on May 6th for the 2021 season (May – October). You won't want to miss this open-air experience in America's oldest state prison or our underground tour of the nation's first chartered copper mine. New signage has been installed to better interpret the same historic ruins and structures that have existed here for over 200

years. Visitors to Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine will explore timeless stories of those who have been incarcerated on this site viewed with both a historic and modern lens. Old New-Gate is proud to house the first ever Re-

entry Hall of Change – a place to honor formerly incarcerated men and women who have made a great positive impact in their communities. Whether you are looking to discover a piece of Connecticut’s rich history, or to think deeply about the nature of crime and punishment; to explore 75 feet below the surface through the dark and windy paths of the old copper mine or simply to make memories with loved ones, your authentic experience at Old New-Gate awaits.

The museum will be open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday from 10:00am – 4:30pm. Additional hours are offered on Thursdays from 12:00pm – 6:00pm. Adult tickets are \$10, with discounted prices for seniors and youth. Active military, veterans, and teachers are free.

To learn more about the museum, our events, or simply how to plan your visit, check out our website. <https://portal.ct.gov/ECD-OldNewGate> See you this season!

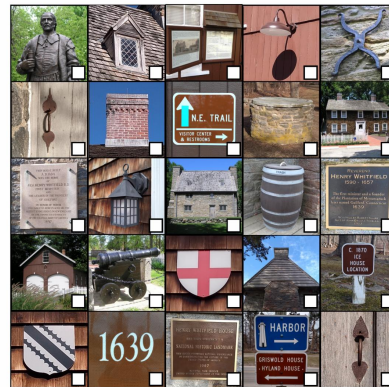
Henry Whitfield State Museum

Announcing new outdoor activities! You're invited to explore the museum grounds to play "I Spy" Bingo, complete the new outdoor scavenger hunt, and decipher the rebus puzzles in the Visitor Center windows. Please bring your own pen, pencil, marker, crayon, or writing instrument of your choice. Of course, while you're here, you can also see the historic buildings in person and learn about the site's history through interpretive signs with photos and links to online content. All outdoor activities are available free of charge every day from dawn to dusk. And we're looking forward to seeing you in person again! The museum buildings will re-open in June for the 2021 season. Socially-distanced, hourly tours will be available by registration 10:00-3:00, Friday-Sunday. Stay tuned to the museum's website and social media for more information coming soon.

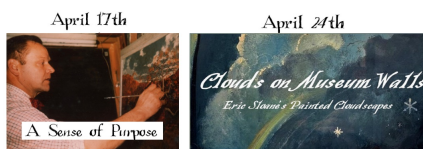


"I SPY" BINGO

Can you find 5 in a row – horizontally, vertically, or diagonally?



UPCOMING EVENTS



Eric Sloane
MUSEUM
REOPENING ~ MAY 7th

Eric Sloane Museum

The Eric Sloane Museum invites you to join our April *Sloane Saturday Symposiums*, a virtual web series designed to discover, discuss, and better understand the many aspects that make up the life and legacy of Eric Sloane. Each Saturday session will feature a different topic regarding Sloane the Artist with presentations by experts in their fields. The programs will be held virtually, and registration is free; however, donations are highly encouraged as we endeavor to further our interpretive programs and signage throughout the

museum. [Registration and Ticket Information](#)

We are also happy to announce the Eric Sloane Museum's reopening to the public on weekends beginning May 7th! Timed tickets and preregistration will be required. [Museum Reopening Information and Tickets](#)

Stay up to date with everything happening at the museum by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

The Department of Economic and Community Development, including the State Historic Preservation Office continues to work remotely. We will be sure to inform our constituents when we plan to return to the office. In the meantime, staff contact information can be found [here](#).

Department of Economic and
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office

