



Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

Quarterly News and Updates

September 19, 2023 | Issue 9

Spooky News from Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine



Light into the Dungeon: A Jack O' Lantern Experience

Sept. 29th – Oct. 29th | **Advance Tickets Required**

Experience the Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine like never before! In the late 18th century, people incarcerated at New-Gate Prison were housed in the abandoned copper mine in total darkness. This October, celebrate the Fall season with us as we bring "Light into the Dungeon", illuminated

by over 300 Jack O' Lanterns. Explore the 100-yard loop of the underground copper mine lit by a display of professionally carved Jack O' Lanterns.

**Order Advance Tickets
Here**

CT's Latest National Historic Landmark

Congratulations to the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport. The museum was recently designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) by the National Park Service. National Historic Landmark Designation is the highest historic designation that a property can receive. There are about 2,600 NHLs in the country and [65 here in Connecticut](#). Each NHL represents an outstanding aspect of America's history or culture.



The Barnum Institute of Science and History (aka Barnum Museum) is nationally significant for its association with Phineas T. Barnum. The Barnum Institute is the last of several public buildings that P.T. Barnum developed for the purpose of "intellectual exchange and public instructional entertainment" (from the NHL nomination). The building served the community as part research facility, museum, and lecture hall for 41 years.

Congratulations to everyone involved with the nomination!

Pictured above from L-R: Jenny Scofield, Deputy-SHPO; Jane Montonaro, Ex. Director of Preservation Connecticut; Kathy Maher, Ex. Director of the Barnum Museum; Jonathan Kinney, State Historic Preservation Officer

August Grant Awards

The following grants were awarded at August's meeting of the Historic Preservation Council

- **New Haven:** Institutional Support for Capacity Building Grant, New Haven Preservation Trust
- **New London:** Institutional Support for Capacity Building Grant, New London Landmarks
- **Woodstock:** Survey and Planning Grant, East Woodstock Congregational Church, Historic Structures Report
- **Montville:** Survey and Planning Grant. New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society, Engineering plans and specifications
- **Hartford:** Survey and Planning Grant, United Methodist Church of Hartford, Water Management Assessment
- **Norwich:** Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grant, City of Norwich, Condition Assessment
- **New Britain:** Historic Restoration Fund Grant, New Britain Museum of American Art
- **Hartford:** Historic Restoration Fund Grant, Chabad House of CT, Inc DBA Chabad Chevra LLC.

Congratulations to everyone! And for more information about our grant programs, visit our [website](#).

News from the Eric Sloane Museum



It has been a jam-packed summer at the Eric Sloane Museum, and we anticipate a very busy fall schedule. The museum hosted various workshops, classes, and special programs all season long! The continuation of our successful workshop series allowed adult students to try their hand at historic trades and crafts, such as log hewing and spoon carving, from master practitioners. We partnered with Touch a Trade to host multiple building trade-related workshops for students aged 10-17 on topics such as plumbing, basics of carpentry, drywall repair, and house painting. The museum was also happy to co-sponsor historic trades day in Concord, Massachusetts, along with our friends and colleagues at Minute Man National Historical Park.

The Friends of the Eric Sloane Museum sponsored youth programs throughout the summer focused on meteorology, aviation, and the arts while continuing to progress on creating the Eric Sloane Museum Education Center. You can learn more about this exciting project by visiting the Friends of the Eric Sloane Museum's website.

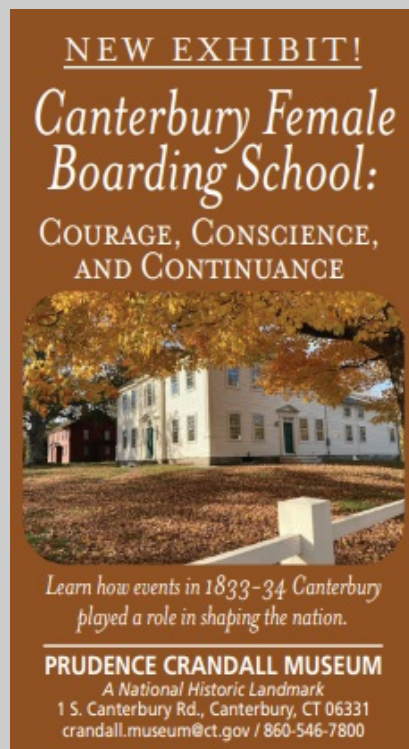
Upcoming programs include **Ironworks Weekend on October 7th and 8th** and the **Touch a Trade Festival on October 21st**. You can find additional information and keep up to date with everything going on at the museum by following the link below.
[Additional Information and Eric Sloane Museum Links/Updates](#)

CT Archaeology Fair

October 14 from 10:00am - 4:00pm
Henry Whitfield State Museum, 248 Old Whitfield St., Guilford

Come celebrate Archaeology Awareness Month with the Connecticut archaeology community! This family-friendly event will include games, exhibits, and other activities on the grounds of Connecticut's oldest house. Local professional archaeologists will also be giving talks throughout the day about archaeology in our state. In addition, the Whitfield House will be open for tours along with the new exhibit in the Visitor Center *History Beneath Our Feet: Expanding Narratives with Archaeology* curated by the SCSU Department of Anthropology. This event is free and open to the public, and is presented by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut Office of State Archaeology, and Preservation Connecticut.

Prudence Crandall Museum - New Exhibit!



We are very excited to announce the opening of a new exhibit on October 1, 2023 - Canterbury Female Boarding School: Courage, Conscience, and Continuance.

And

Save the Date!
Saturday, November 4
10 am to 4 pm

The Prudence Crandall Museum will host a one-day symposium highlighting recent scholarship on the Canterbury Female Boarding School. Visit the Prudence Crandall Museum website in early October for further details and registration.

For more information email: Crandall.museum@ct.gov.

Freedom Trail Month

September is Freedom Trail Month and what better way to kick it off than in Bridgeport celebrating with the [Mary and Eliza Freeman Center](#).

The Connecticut Freedom Trail documents and designates places and sites important to African-American history in the state. To be designated, a property must meet at least one of the requirements below:

- be associated with events related to the Amistad Case, 1839–1842; or
- be associated with the Underground Railroad and the Abolitionist movement; or
- embody the concept of the movement toward freedom and equality of Connecticut's citizens and the heritage of African-American citizens in Connecticut.

Other events across the state this month include:

- Saturday, September 23rd, Windsor Freedom Trail Walk at Archer AME Church - 7 am - 10 am
<https://www.ctvisit.com/events/windsor-freedom-trail-walking-tour-2023>
- Saturday, September 23rd, 10 am - 11am Ellis Ruley Walk – Norwich
<https://walknorwich.org/freedom-trail/stop-15/>
- Saturday, September 23rd, 1pm - 4pm the Little Rock Nine Dedication in Chester at the Motley Preserve.



Join Us

~Connecticut Freedom Trail Celebration~
Constance Baker Motley Preserve, September 23rd, Chester, CT



- **Celebrate** The Constance Baker Motley Preserve heritage site in Chester on Saturday, September 23rd, 1-4 pm, when its popular Little Rock Nine Hiking Trail and new story-board history will be dedicated
- **Welcome** the Chester Motley site on the Connecticut Freedom Trail—among the first to represent the new category of Civil Rights
- **Honor** New Haven-born Constance Baker Motley (1921-2005), a trail-blazing civil rights attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund who litigated every major battle of the Civil Rights era including:

~Rosa Parks' Memphis Bus Boycott, Dr. King's Birmingham Children's Crusade, John Lewis' Freedom Rides, SNCC's lunch counter sit-ins, major school desegregation cases;

~Enforcement of the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education*, a 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision outlawing segregated public schools, for which she wrote the first brief;

~Litigation under *Brown* of 200 cases, dismantling Jim Crow at state universities in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, So. Carolina, and in Little Rock, Arkansas at Central High in 1957, where she helped win the historic "Little Rock Nine" schools' case

Motley's courtroom brilliance earned her the reputation as
"Chief tactician of the Civil Rights Movement"

Join Us to Honor the Little Rock Nine!



MimiJean Brown, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Thelma Mothershead, Melba Pattillo, Gloria Ray, Terrence Roberts, Jefferson Thomas, Carlotta Walls, 1957

Touch a Trade Event



The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office is thrilled to be a proud supporter of the 2023 Touch a Trade Festival on October 21st. The Eric Sloane Museum and Connecticut Antique Machinery Association will host the daylong event from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 31 Kent Cornwall Road in Kent, CT.

Touch a Trade's mission is to support the development of the next generation of trades and craftspeople through dynamic learning

experiences. This FREE event will allow youth and adults to safely learn about and participate in activities centered on the building trades, traditional crafts, and historic preservation.

Planned activities include hands-on programs demonstrating carpentry, woodworking, masonry, welding, plumbing, electrical wiring, and traditional arts and crafts.

WelcomeFest at the Henry Whitfield State Museum



On September 9th, the Henry Whitfield State Museum in Guilford hosted WelcomeFest, an event that fosters mutual understanding and deeper belonging for all. The free event including music, storytelling, and the UNITY public art project.

The event was a great way to celebrate community and encourage connections.

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