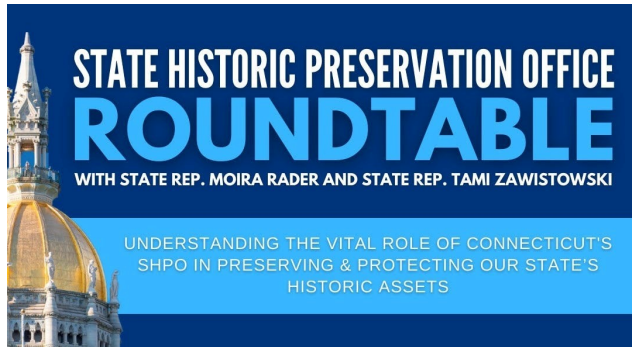


Quarterly News and Updates

March 15, 2024 | Issue 11

SHPO at the State Capitol



A special thank you to Representatives Moira Rader and Tami Zawistowski for hosting a SHPO roundtable earlier this month. Jonathan Kinney, State Historic Preservation Officer, delivered an overview of the office and our programs. Then the floor was opened for questions. It was a wonderful opportunity to discuss the role of our office in preserving the state's historic resources.

You can view the presentation and discussion on the CT General Assembly's YouTube channel [here](#).

SHPO goes to Washington, D.C.



Cory Atkinson and Catherine Labadia from SHPO were joined by Charlie Janson and Kathy Maher for Historic Preservation Advocacy Week in Washington D.C. The week included meetings with other SHPO offices, hearing updates from our national partners, discussing national policies being proposed by federal agencies, and visiting Connecticut's seven congressional offices. In addition to talking about the importance of permanently reauthorizing the Historic

Preservation Fund and passing the Historic Tax Credit Growth and Opportunity Act (HTC-GO), Charlie and Kathy were able to put local and personal perspectives on the importance of Historic Preservation. While the Connecticut delegation was generally supportive, it was great to emphasize Historic Preservation as a potential solution to current challenges, such as affordable housing, climate change, economic equity, and quality of life.

Pictured above from left: Cory Atkinson, US Representative Jim Himes, Kathy Maher, Catherine Labadia, and Charlie Janson



Thanks to Southern Connecticut State University student Braeden Burke and his interest in the historic water systems at the Whitfield House, a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was conducted this winter around the Whitfield House and in the basement. Braeden received the Archaeological Society of Connecticut's Brian D. Jones grant to conduct his research and engaged TerraSearch for the GPR survey to search for any archaeological features, especially any related to water system. Braeden, SCSU Associate Professor of Anthropology Dr. Bill Farley, and museum staff are reviewing the results, which will inform interpretation at the Whitfield House as well as future years of archaeological work at the museum. Be sure to visit the museum from the end of May through the beginning of July

when Dr. Farley and the SCSU Archaeology Field School will be back for their sixth season of digging next to the Whitfield House. For more information and the latest news, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Pictured: TerraSearch's Cole Peterson (a former Whitfield Museum seasonal guide!) and Fiona Jones conducting a GPR survey this winter

Support Restaurants in Your Community

Is there a historic small restaurant in your community that you love? Nominate them for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Backing Historic Small Restaurants Grant Program in partnership with American Express!

What are the cozy cafes, delicious dives, and other small or independently owned restaurants you love that contribute to your neighborhood's unique history and identity? Share your favorites and they'll have the chance to receive \$50,000 in funding.

Nominate your favorite place by March 25!

<https://savingplaces.org/historicrestaurants>

Recent Grant Awards

City of Ansonia

Consulting services of a CFR-qualified Architect/Engineering Team to prepare a condition assessment of the Ansonia Opera House (1870), 100 Main Street, Ansonia

New London Landmarks

Consulting services of a CFR-qualified Architectural Historian to prepare a National Register nomination for the Antone DeSant houses, (c. 1835), 745-753 Bank Street, New London

Plainfield Grave Guardians, Inc.

Consulting services of a CFR-qualified architectural historian to prepare a National Register nomination for Old Plainfield Cemetery (1711), 117 Cemetery Road, Plainfield

Town of Easton

Geophysical Survey for Human Burials at Den Cemetery (early 19th century-1917), Blackrock Turnpike, Easton

News from the Eric Sloane Museum



The Eric Sloane Museum is set to reopen on May 4th for the 2024 museum season, with seasonal hours running from Friday to Sunday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Exciting new exhibits, programs, classes, and events await visitors of all interests. On May 18th & 19th, immerse yourself in Iron Works Weekend, a new program exploring the history of ironmaking in the Housatonic Valley at the Kent Iron Works site. The event will include special tours, exhibits, and an iron smelting demonstration, marking the first iron smelting on the site since the furnace's closure in 1892. Join us June 8th for our 4th annual Historic Trades Day and antique tool sale. For more details

and the full events schedule, please visit our [website](#). Stay updated on museum activities by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

CT Freedom Trail Event



On Sunday, March 10th, the [Dixwell Avenue Congregational UCC](#) in New Haven hosted the Amistad Community Commemorative.

This celebration of music, art, and history memorialized the importance of the story of the Amistad to American history. The celebration also honored the leadership of Alfred Marder, who, with the Honorable Toni Harp, the Amistad Committee, Inc., and others, established the Connecticut Freedom Trail (CFT) in 1995. Al Marder, who passed

away at the end of last year at 100 years old, dedicated his life to equity and equality. New Haven Mayor Elicker, CFT Coordinator Todd Levine, House Representative Toni Walker and the Honorable Toni Harp were among the speakers.

The Dixwell Avenue Congregational UCC is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Connecticut Freedom Trail.

Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine



Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine will open for the season on May 10th! Check out the [website](#) for more visiting and event details.

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