



# Quarterly News and Updates

December 13, 2024 | Issue 14

## 2024 Year in Review

It was a busy year at the SHPO, and as we close out 2024, we are looking back at some of the year's highlights and accomplishments.

### **Tax Credits**

- Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit issued 72 vouchers totaling \$1,183,940.27
- Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit issued 5 vouchers totaling \$9,269,265.25

### **Grants**

- Historic Restoration Fund Grant awarded \$605,904 to five grantees
- All other grants awarded \$847,000 to 35 grantees

### **National Register of Historic Places**

- 9 historic resources, including 6 historic districts, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places

### **Online Platforms**

- ConnCRIS received 49,908 page views with 3,147,224 data requests
- ER Review Requests (since launch in July) accepted 1,123 environmental review requests
- NR/SR Eligibility Requests (since launch in October) received 12 requests for potential eligibility

### **Office Hours**

- In an effort to be more accessible to our constituents, several SHPO staff members instituted regular office hours. Setting aside several hours each week, the public can schedule time with program staff to discuss tax credit projects, grants, or technical assistance

### **Data Strategic Planning**

- Continuing from 2023, SHPO staff started Phase 2 and Phase 3 of our data strategic planning supported by CTData Collaborative. We hope to announce improvements to our incentive programs' (grants and tax credits) data tracking systems in the new year.

### **Introduction to Historic Preservation Course**

- It was all hands on deck this Fall for a five-part course on historic preservation sponsored by EdAdvance. Topics ranged from an overview of architectural styles in CT, to archaeology, researching historic properties, and the economics of historic preservation. Student satisfaction was high and we look forward to running the class again in Spring 2025.

## Educational Programming

During our recent public input sessions for the Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, the need for more educational programming and information sharing was a topic that came up frequently. To that end, the SHPO is planning to launch a series of educational programs next year. Before we announce the schedule, we'd like to know what you would like to learn more about. Please complete the brief survey using the link below and let us know what types of historic preservation programming you'd like to see.

Thanks!

## Recent Grant Awards

### Survey and Planning Grants

- The **Town of East Lyme** received \$10,000.00 for consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architectural historian to prepare an historic structure report for the Brookside Farm (1845) 33 Society Rd., Niantic
- The **Borough of Naugatuck** was awarded \$20,000.00 for consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect/engineer team to prepare architectural plans and specifications for the Bronson Tuttle House (1882) 380 Church Street, Naugatuck.
- **Friends of Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park received \$6,000 for a Landscape Condition Assessment, Fort Griswold State Park (1775), Groton, CT**
- **Town of Redding** was awarded \$20,000 for a condition assessment for the Gilbert and Bennet Wire Mill site (1874), 20 N Main St., Redding
- **Connecticut Audubon Society** was awarded \$20,000 for a schematic design drawings for restoration of the Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center (1756) 100 Lyme Street, Old Lyme
- **Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theater Company received \$20,000 for architectural plans and specifications for the restoration of the Monte Cristo Cottage (1840) 325 Pequot Avenue, New London**
- **Town of Ellington** received \$20,000 for a Historic Resources Inventory for the Town of Ellington
- **Newtown Historical Society** was awarded \$15,000 for a condition assessment for the Matthew Curtiss House (c. 1750) 44 Main Street, Newtown
- **St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church, Baltic** was awarded \$20,000 for plans and specifications for restoration of the bell tower at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Church (1911), 70 W Main Street, Baltic

### Grants for Geophysical Survey for Human Burials

- **Town of Chester** received \$5,000 for a geophysical survey for human burials at the West End Cemetery (1813) 28 Cedar Lake Rd., Chester
- **Archer Memorial AME Zion Church** was awarded \$5,000 for a geophysical survey for human burials at the church cemetery and pine grove (c. 1800) 789T Archer Road, Windsor
- **Episcopal Church of Connecticut** received \$5,000 for a geophysical survey for human burials at the former Episcopal Church of Norwich (1849) 78 Washington Street, Norwich, CT

### Supplemental Certified Local Government Grant

- **Town of Plymouth** was awarded \$22,250.00 for consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified architectural historian to prepare an historic resources inventory for the Town of Plymouth

### Federal Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Enhancement Grants

- **Town of Salisbury** received \$20,000 for consulting services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect/engineer team to prepare a condition assessment for the Academy Building (1833) 24 Main Street, Salisbury

### Partners In Preservation Grant

- **The Connecticut Democracy Center** was awarded \$100,000 in funding to support Connecticut Freedom Trail public programs and education

**Spotlight on the Museum Collections**  
**A New Series by Jodi Polsgrove, Curator of Collections**



The four State Museums have thousands of objects, books, archives and other materials on display and in storage that highlight over 400 years of Connecticut's history. We'd like to highlight some of them with you in each newsletter.

As we recently celebrated the life of Governor M. Jodi Rell, I thought our first item, should also be an from a Governor. And it just so happens to be something brand new to the Eric Sloane Museum Collection.

Eric Sloane was an advocate for the ringing of bells to commemorate Independence Day. In 1962, on a radio show, Sloane spoke of the early American tradition of ringing bells in celebration of Independence, rather than the modern custom of fireworks. His friend Eric Hatch, the Chairman of the Connecticut Historical Commission, worked with Sloane to write "The Little Book of Bells" published in 1964, with Sloane creating the illustrations. Prior to the book, the "Committee of Two Erics" worked together on a letter writing and article campaign to get a resolution of Congress to celebrate

Independence Day by the ringing of bells. The resolution, adopted on June 26, 1963, stated that at 2pm EDT on July 4, to ring bells across America in commemoration of the nation's independence. President Kennedy used this resolution to proclaim July 4, 1963 "National Bell Ringing Day". Many places continue this tradition, including the Eric Sloane Museum.

The bell pictured above was given by "the Two Erics" to Connecticut Governor John N. Dempsey in 1963, as part of the Let Freedom Ring campaign. It is inscribed:

The bell was donated by Governor Dempsey's daughter this summer, on a visit to the Museum. It is currently on view at the Eric Sloane Museum, in Sloane's recreated studio.

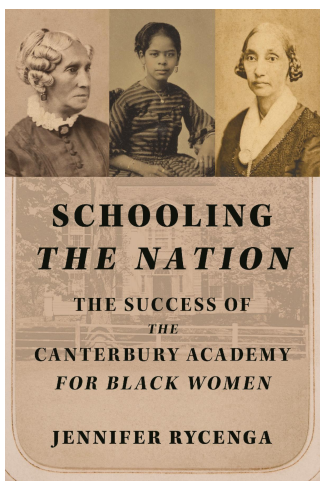
## In Other Museum Collections News...

You can view items from the Eric Sloane Museum, and all four of the State Museums on [Connecticut Collections](#), our online Public Portal? This is our online database where the collections of all four museums are slowly being released.

Just this month, Old New-Gate Prison and the Prudence Crandall Museum were added to the Public Portal! Though only a few items are currently available, the staff is working hard to continue to photograph and catalog the collections so the public can view them anytime from anywhere.

Keep checking back as we add more items.

## Prudence Crandall Museum



# Welcome!

The Prudence Crandall Museum  
is open by timed guided tours only.

## Sundays

November 10 2024 to April 27, 2025

Mon-Thurs are reserved for pre-booked groups of 10 or more.  
Closed Fridays and Saturdays.

**Tour Times:**  
11:30 am & 1:30 pm

Tours are limited to 15 people per tour  
and last one hour.

Tickets can be  
purchased at the  
museum or in advance  
online at Eventbrite.

For more information:  
crandall.museum@ct.gov  
860-546-7800  
<https://portal.ct.gov/ECD-PrudenceCrandallMuseum>





The museum will be open on Sundays for guided tours only during the off-season.

Book Launch at the Prudence Crandall Museum  
Sunday, January 12, 2025; 1 pm to 3 pm,  
FREE

Dr. Jennifer Rycenga celebrates the launch of *Schooling the Nation: The Success of the Canterbury Academy for Black Women* at the Prudence Crandall Museum, site of the Canterbury Female Boarding School (1831-1834). Join Dr. Rycenga and museum staff for conversation, book sales & signing, light refreshments, access to the new museum exhibit (*Canterbury Female Boarding School: Courage, Conscience, & Continuance*), and a short talk by Rycenga about the school and its place in a truly multi-racial and multi-gender understanding of America. This event is free.

Tickets can be purchased at the museum or online at Eventbrite.

The Prudence Crandall Museum is a National Historic Landmark and International Site of Conscience owned and operated by the State of Connecticut. For more information email [Crandall.museum@ct.gov](mailto:Crandall.museum@ct.gov) or visit the museum's website: <https://portal.ct.gov/ecd-prudencecrandallmuseum>.

## Did You Know...National Register Edition



Did you know that nominations to the National Register of Historic Places can be updated to reflect new scholarship, overlooked features, and/or changes over time? Many of the State's historic resources were listed on the National Register fifty years ago. Some of these nominations are under-documented and do not include important historic features like outbuildings and landscapes, while others are missing important social history details.

Recently, the State Historic Preservation Review Board approved an amendment to the Darling Family Farmstead and Tavern in Woodbridge. The amended nomination clarifies and expands the period and areas of significance, and includes descriptions of the outbuildings and landscape along with a clear map, data table, and current photos. Social History was added for the history of enslaved people and indentured servants associated with the property and the architectural significance was updated to include first-hand source information not available at the time of the original nomination.

Feel free to contact our office if you are interested in updating a National Register nomination. Funding may be available.

## Celebrating the Season



DECD held its annual holiday party on December 4th at the Union Club in Hartford. We were surprised with special guest, Governor Lamont! Governor Lamont spoke briefly to the crowd and expressed his appreciation for all the valuable work the office does across the state.

In the spirit of the governor's remarks, the SHPO wants to express its appreciation to our constituents for their support and contributions to historic preservation throughout the year.



We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday season.

(Pictured L-R: Cory Atkinson, Governor Lamont, Cathy Labadia, Jonathan Kinney)

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