

Quarterly News and Updates

September 11, 2024 | Issue 13

SHPO Staff Provides Support for Storm Damaged State Properties



Recently, the SHPO's Environmental Review staff went on emergency site visits to Southbury Training School and Southford Falls State Park to assess damage sustained during the catastrophic flooding event that occurred on August 18th. At the Southbury Training School, SHPO met with representatives from DAS, DDS, and their contractors to tour the campus. SHPO staff provided technical guidance and recommendations regarding historic preservation concerns that could be incorporated into the cleanup and repair efforts. Despite significant damage to the campus infrastructure,

historically significant resources proved to be resilient and remained largely unaffected. Flooding at the Southford Falls State Park exposed the extensive archaeological ruins of the Diamond Match Company and undermined the park's covered bridge. The bridge is a replica of a nationally significant engineering design that was reconstructed under the supervision of Eric Sloane. SHPO staff met with representatives from DEEP to develop plans for both the emergency and permanent preservation of these important cultural resources.

Photo: Southford Falls State Park, Southbury

October is Archaeology Awareness Month

October is Connecticut Archaeology Awareness Month. Mark your calendars for two fun and interesting events. The annual **Archaeology Fair is scheduled for October 5th from 10am to 4pm at the Henry Whitfield State Museum (248 Old Whitfield Street) in Guilford.** It is a family-friendly event with games, exhibits, and presentations. This event



is free and open to the public. Later in the month, the **Connecticut Chapter of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology** will host the **2024 annual meeting at the Omni hotel in New Haven**. This year's theme is **Contested Landscapes** and this topic will be explored through presentations, posters, workshops, and events during October 17th through the 20th. Registration for this conference is available at: <https://cneha.org/conference.html>

Prudence Crandall Museum



Exhibit: *Spirit of Resilience: Art & Artifact* (through October 28, 2024)

This exhibit pairs small quilts by Connecticut-based and internationally renowned fabric artist Ed Johnetta Miller with artifacts in the museum collection that directly connect to the Canterbury Female Boarding School.

Ed Johnetta Miller is an author, fiber artist, teacher, independent curator, founder of the Hartford Artisan Center, and former Management Envoy from the US to Cote D'Ivoire, Ivory Coast. Miller's work is exhibited widely in the US and internationally, including the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Museum of Art, The International Quilt Museum, Nelson Mandela's National Museum, and three US

Embassies. The *Sunday New York Times* featured Ed Johnetta Miller in the "Best of the Best" series twice, in 2001 and 2021. Her work has been featured on HGTV, WGBH-Boston, and *Modern Master's Holiday Show*. Miller has received numerous awards for her role as artist, community leader, and teacher, including The Governor's Award, Connecticut's most prestigious artistic award.

Entry to the museum is by timed guided tours only; Friday—Monday. Admission rates apply and includes a guided tour of the semi-permanent exhibit, *Canterbury Female Boarding School: Courage, Conscience, & Continuance*, with access to *Spirit of Resilience: Art & Artifact*.

***Spirit of Resilience* Exhibit Program: Notecard Workshop with Ed Johnetta Miller - Sunday, September 15, 10 am to 12 pm & 1 pm to 3 pm**

Award-winning fiber artist Ed Johnetta Miller will lead participants in an art project based on her work on display in the exhibit *Spirit of Resilience: Art & Artifact*. Using images, paper, fabric, and other craft items, participants will design a notecard inspired by the students of the Canterbury Female Boarding School and their teachers, Free program; however, space is limited—registration is required. Register here: <https://forms.gle/tBAzFmhoA7FptZth9>. Support provided by CT Humanities.

Photo: **Top artwork:** *Pride and Promise: Celebrating African Heritage*; **Bottom artwork:** *Empowerment Through Education* By Ed Johnetta Miller. Used with permission.

New to the CT Freedom Trail



Friday June 21, 2024 marked the newest addition to the Connecticut Freedom Trail, the Mary and Thaddeus Newton Monument at the Evergreen Cemetery in New Haven! After years of neglect, the newly repaired gravestone of the Newtons was unveiled alongside a bronze Freedom Trail plaque. The event was organized by John Mills of Alex Breanne Corporation, who also raised funds for the marker restoration. Mary Newton was an abolitionist who successfully secured her husband, Thaddeus's freedom, after which the

pair settled in New Haven and became pillars of the African-American community.

Mary and Thaddeus's sons, Stephen and Alexander, both served in the Union Army during the Civil War, with Stephen serving in the Massachusetts 54th Regiment, and Alexander serving in the 29th Connecticut Regiment, respectively. Both units are notable for consisting entirely of Black American volunteers. A new monument for Stephen was unveiled alongside his parent's repaired marker, with the help of the Connecticut National Guard funeral honors team.

Joining the celebration were local and federal representatives, including Senator Richard Blumenthal, who described the incredible journey of the Newton family as "an American story about freedom fighters, and it continues today. The men and women in uniform today have raised their right hand with allegiance not to a government, not to a president, but to the Constitution of the United States that now has an amendment that prohibits slavery."

The Connecticut Freedom Trail documents and designates sites that embody the struggle for freedom and human dignity, and celebrates African-American communities. Interested in learning more? Check out www.ctfreedomtrail.org!

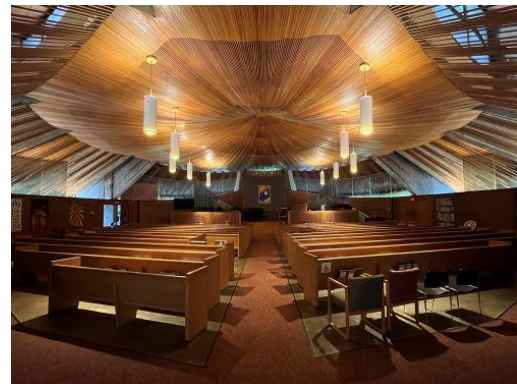
Recent listings to the National Register of Historic Places



D&H Scovil Industrial Historic District, Haddam

The D & H Scovil Industrial District consists of 12 historic sites, structures, and buildings representing four dis-contiguous mill sites along Candlewood Hill Brook in the village of Higganum in Haddam. The district includes buildings, ruins, dams, reservoirs, canals, turbines, flumes, and races among the 5 property parcels.

The D & H Scovil Company



Bloomfield Avenue Meeting House, Hartford

The Bloomfield Avenue Meeting House, aka The First Unitarian Congregational Society of Hartford is a striking example of Mid-Century Modern/Neo-Expressionist design by Victor A. Lundy, A.I.A. (1923-).

From the National Register nomination: "Twelve structural concrete walls extend radially towards the central sanctuary space.

specialized in the manufacturing of hoes and remained a family-owned business from its inception in 1849 until 1948. The company closed its doors in 1961. The district is significant for its statewide contribution to industry and for its archaeological potential, namely district's potential to yield information on important historical patterns including the development of waterpower and the evolution of single product manufacturing processes.

The walls, which are low at the periphery and rise to varying heights as they extend inward, support an innovative roof assembly of overlapping planes of tongue-and-groove cedar decking that bear on concentric rings of steel cables suspended between the radial walls. The central sanctuary roof, which is supported by a secondary system of exterior cables, is lower than the surrounding roofs, forming an inverted clerestory that provides natural light to the ambulatory and peripheral spaces." The building is significant in the category of architecture "for the experimental and symbolic qualities of its unique Mid-Century Modern Neo-Expressionist design."

Recent Grant Awards



Historic Restoration Fund Grant Awards

The Chester Public Library, Chester was awarded \$9,400 for a boiler replacement.

Survey and Planning Grant Awards

New Canaan Preservation Alliance, New Canaan, for consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified architectural historian to prepare a

National Register nomination form for 6 Modern residences in town.

St James Roman Catholic Church, Stratford, for consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect to prepare a Condition Assessment for St. James Church (1914) located at 2110 Main St.

The Dudley Foundation, Guilford, for consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect/engineer team to prepare plans and specifications to support the restoration of the Dudley Farm House (1844) located at 2351 Durham Road.

Town of East Haddam for consulting services of a community planning firm to facilitate visioning workshops for the redevelopment of the Old Town Office Site, 1 & 7 Main Street.

Clapp House Preservation, Inc., South Windsor, for consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect to prepare a Condition Assessment for the Increase Clapp House (1808) located at 59 Sullivan Avenue.

Hazardville Institute Conservancy Society, Inc., Enfield, for consulting Services of a 36 CFR-qualified historical architect/engineer team to prepare a plan to reinstall original building material in the Hazardville Institute (1869) located at 317 Hazard Avenue.

Funding for our grant programs is limited. Please be sure to check the programs'

websites for more information on application deadlines and staff contacts.

- [Historic Restoration Fund Grant](#)
- [Survey and Planning Grant](#)

Upcoming Events at Henry Whitfield State Museum



WelcomeFest | September 15, 12-4
Let's celebrate cultural diversity and build a nation of neighbors! This free family-friendly event will feature the puppet show "Chicken Soup, Chicken Soup" presented by WonderSpark Puppets, a puppet-making workshop, kindness rock craft area, Latin American music by Lorena Garay and Eugenio Huanca, classical Indian dancing by Aishwarya Lakshmi Ratan, professionally-applied henna designs by Jamilah Henna Creations, and the UNITY public art project where all ages can add their touch to this interactive art installation in front of the Whitfield House. **FREE**

Making Chocolate the 18th Century Way | October 20, 10-4
Free demonstration by Robert Lecce and Edward Dirgo of the Pewter Pot Fine Spiced Chocolates with chocolate bars and drinking mixes available for purchase. Free museum admission for Connecticut residents for State Museum Sunday.

For more information and the latest news, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine



Induction Ceremony to CT Freedom Trail

Friday September 13, 2024 | 3:00
Please join us on September 13th at 3:00pm as Old New-Gate is ceremoniously inducted as a CT Freedom Trail site to commemorate Prince Mortimer. This event will include the unveiling of an interpretive sign, a plaque presentation, and remarks on the significance of sharing Prince's story! Learn more about the CT Freedom Trail [HERE](#). Learn more about Prince Mortimer [HERE](#).

Bat Appreciation Day

Sunday September 15, 2024 | 11:00 - 3:00

Learn about New-Gate's beloved bats as we team up with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to promote bat conservation. Engage with wildlife biologists and learn about how cool bats really are, and how you can help support these important and amazing creatures. Demonstrations and hand-on activities for all ages. Free Admission!

Fireside Chat with Jack Shannahan

Sunday September 22, 2024 | 5:00

Hosted by the Friends of Old New-Gate and East Granby Historical Society. Jack and

Bob will be discussing earlier experiences at Old New-Gate. If you have found yourself saying "I went to New-Gate as a kid!" this is the gathering for you. Come and share your experiences of "Newgate before the state" with others who have been a part of this period in New-Gate history. Even if you have not experienced New-Gate of yesteryear, the event promises to be fun and informative. Get to know your very vibrant local history. Free Admission.

"Light into the Dungeon:" A Jack O' Lantern Experience

September 27, 2024 - October 27, 2024 | **[Advanced 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. Celebrate the Fall season with us as we bring "Light into the Dungeon." Explore the 100-yard loop of the underground copper mine illuminated by a display of 350 professionally carved Jack O' Lanterns. **[Purchase Tickets Here](#)***

Recent Historic Tax Credit Awards



Arnold Rudd Company Store, 133 Bank Street, New London

The rehabilitation of the historic Arnold Rudd Company Store located at 133 Bank Street was awarded over \$1.2 million in state historic tax credits and approximately \$1 million in federal historic tax credits.

The building was constructed in 1886 by Arnold Rudd for his wholesale flour, feed, and grain business. The building continued to house several prominent local wholesalers and retail establishments for 135 years.

Currently, the completed rehabilitation created 15 apartments and two ground floor commercial spaces.



Murray Building, 699 Main Street, Willimantic

The rehabilitation of the historic Murray Building located at 699 Main Street was awarded \$1.9 million in state historic tax credits and roughly the same amount in federal historic tax credits.

The building was constructed in the late 19th century and served as a department store for many years. Located on a prominent corner on Main Street, it remained vacant for over a decade before it was rehabilitated to mixed-use.

The completed rehabilitation created 16 apartments and ground floor retail and community spaces.



The Eric Sloane Museum had a busy summer and expects a packed fall schedule. The museum hosted various workshops, classes, and special programs throughout the season. The successful workshop series included historic trades and crafts for adult students, such as log hewing, blacksmithing and spoon carving, taught by expert practitioners. In partnership with TradesUp (formerly Touch a Trade), the museum also offered building trade-related workshops for students aged 10-17, covering topics like plumbing, carpentry basics, drywall repair, and house painting. We also partnered with our colleagues at Old New gate Prison and Copper Mine to interpret 18th century mining

practices during their Gem and Mineral show. The Friends of the Eric Sloane Museum sponsored summer youth programs focused on meteorology, aviation, and the arts. They are also progressing with creating the Eric Sloane Museum Education Center. For more information on this project, visit the Friends of the Eric Sloane Museum's website. Upcoming programs include the **Connecticut Antique Machinery Association's Fall Festival on September 27-29.**

The SHPO is thrilled to be a supporter of the 2024 **TradesUp SPARK Festival on October 12th.** 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.

TradesUp'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. More information is available at <https://www.tradesup.org/>

For additional information and updates about the museum, visit the link below.
[Additional Information and Eric Sloane Museum Links/Updates](#)

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