



Quarterly News and Updates

June 17, 2025 | Issue 16

Federal SHPO Funding in Jeopardy



The SHPO is bracing for an uncertain future as President Trump's proposed FFY26 budget eliminates funding for SHPOs and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) nationwide. Although it is simply a proposal, this is an alarming development that would have serious consequences for the SHPO from both a staffing and programmatic standpoint. The Historic Preservation Fund Grant that the SHPO receives from the National Park Service supports half of the program staff positions in the office. Should this funding be lost, all SHPO programs would be impacted by a possible reduction in staffing levels; however, programs that would be directly impacted by staff reductions include the National Register program, the state and federal historic tax credit programs, and the office's regulatory review requirements.

To add to the uncertainty, federal FY 25 funds have not been released to the SHPOs despite having been appropriated by Congress last year. A recent [op-ed](#) by Connecticut Preservation Action President, Aaron Marcavitch and Jane Montanaro, Executive Director of Preservation Action was featured in the Hartford Courant and CT Mirror outlining the potential impacts of a funding shortfall. The piece follows similar articles in [Rhode Island](#), [Pennsylvania](#), [Ohio](#), and [Oklahoma](#).

We will be sure to keep everyone posted as we learn more.

Spotlight on Museum Collections by Jodi Polsgrove, Curator of Collections

Happy Summer! This quarter, we are looking at an object from the Prudence Crandall Museum Collections.

The story of Sarah Harris, Prudence Crandall, and the Canterbury Female Boarding School is an amazing account of resilience and resistance. The legacy of the school is instrumental in the United States' fight for



policies that support educational equity. This is reflected in the later Supreme Court decisions and student accomplishments.

Few artifacts connected to the teachers, students and supporters of the Canterbury Female Boarding School have survived. One of our most significant collections pieces is this sampler, stitched by a ten-year old Prudence Crandall. (Per communication with a descendant.) The museum acquired the sampler through the

descendants of Prudence Crandall's older brother, Hezekiah Crandall, sometime during the administration of Governor Ella Grasso (1975 – 1980).

Samplers were often a “test” of a student’s needlework abilities and were common as school exercises for girls and young women in the 18th and 19th centuries. Samplers from this period are almost entirely worked in cross stitch. Most samplers are dated by the embroiderer; Prudence Crandall’s sampler is not.

It is assumed that girls were taught to stitch as part of their early or “elementary” education. However, mothers may have instructed their daughters, as well. This sampler is an example of Prudence’s early education. The sampler is not as elaborate as some you will find, but it shows her abilities. Whether the simplicity was due to her Quaker schooling, or this was only a practice piece, we don’t know. It is most likely that most of the young women who came to the Canterbury Female Boarding School knew how to stitch. Sarah Harris also completed a sampler in the mid-1820s, when she was about 15 years old. It is part of the textile collections at [Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library](#).

This object is a reminder of the type of early education most young women were receiving in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Some women’s schools, such as the Litchfield Female Academy and the Hartford Female Seminary, used “ornamental arts” to reinforce intellectual topics. Prudence Crandall’s school also included what could be considered “ornamental arts”, advertising the curricula included “drawing, painting and music”.

Just as Crandall’s early education influenced her to become an educator, she did the same for her students, with many going forth to teach others.

And the Award Goes to...

We are thrilled to announce the following awards:

Morgan Bengel, Site Administrator of Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine in East Granby, was awarded the Mimi Findlay Award for Young Preservationists at this year's Preservation CT annual award ceremony. Morgan oversees the year-round maintenance, infrastructure, and exhibit preparation for the site. Morgan's hard work, dedication, and passion of the museum make her one of the state's rising preservation professionals.

In March, the SHPO was notified that we were selected to receive a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the



2025 Esri User Conference for [ConnCRIS](#), our online map based cultural resources information system. SHPO's ConnCRIS site has been awarded the SAG for standing out from hundreds of thousands of other sites around the world for outstanding work with GIS technology. The award will be accepted by **Kevin Berger**, the SHPO's GIS analyst.

Earlier this month, Jonathan Kinney, State Historic Preservation Officer awarded the Harlan Griswold Award to **Lee G. and Anne Crofoot Kuckro** at the annual Preservation Connecticut awards celebration. Lee and Anne (who passed away in 2010) have been long-time supporters of local and statewide historic preservation in Connecticut. Whether they were members of the Wethersfield Historical Society and, later, the Wethersfield Historic District Commission, publishing books about local history, and volunteering their time on statewide historic

preservation boards, the Kuckros have been influential preservationists for over 50 years.

Congratulations!

Opening the Doors to a New Era



On May 27th, SHPO was honored to celebrate with Congressman Himes, Senate Majority Leader Duff, Mayor Rilling, and the Board and Staff of Lockwood-Matthews Mansion for the museum's reopening, following a 2-year renovation that brought new accessibility and safety features to the property, as well as new archival and meeting spaces. The museum also received a SHPO Historic Restoration Fund Grant to restore the Mansion's front doors, as well as historic light fixtures and statue. Restoration of the doors was completed by Urban Aesthetics. SHPO staff provided guidance throughout the entire process, ensuring that the integrity of the National Historic Landmark was retained. The project was designed by David Scott Parker Architects, overseen by Westview Group, LLC, and completed by construction firm Consigli.

Photo: Restored front doors.

New to the National Register of Historic Places

Fuller Brush Co. Factory Complex 3580 Main Street, Hartford

The Fuller Brush Company factory complex was listed on the National Register earlier this Spring. The complex consists of five historic buildings including the Main Factory and Office Building, a Garage Building, Boiler House, a Factory Building, and Warehouse Building - all

constructed between 1922 and 1962.

The site includes a large surface parking lot as well as a curved, paved road between the the Factory Building and Warehouse Building that historically served as a railroad siding for train access.

The property is significant for its contribution to the history of industry in Connecticut. The complex served as the headquarters for the Fuller Brush Company, a leading industry leader in the 20th century's household cleaning market. Throughout the 20th century, the Fuller Brush Company increased production and employed thousands of local workers. It remained a major force within the Hartford industrial community until 1959 when it ceased production in Hartford and moved to East Hartford.

During the late twentieth century, the building served several companies for manufacturing and warehouse use. The large Main Factory and Office Building later held offices for the State Department of Labor and Social Services. Today, it is in the midst of a rehabilitation to convert the complex into housing using state and federal historic tax credits.



Photos: Fuller Brush Company Factory: Main Factory/Office Building and a page from the Fuller Brush Company catalogue

Additional properties recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places include:

- Downtown Bridgeport Historic District, Bridgeport
- Shepherd of the Sea Chapel, Groton
- Stafford Springs Historic District, Stafford
- George A. and Jennie Curtis Fay House, Meriden

News from Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine



The season is well underway, and we have several special events planned for the summer months (see below). In addition, we continue to make progress on our National Park Service Grants to Rehabilitate Viets Tavern and Stabilize the 4-Story Cell Block / Retaining Wall.

Escape from New-Gate

June 29, 2025 | 10:00 - 4:00

Travel back to the American Revolution with the 5th CT Regiment. Living history

interpreters bring the site to life with soldiers and prisoners, and so much more. Visitors can experience a bustling prison yard, and maybe even witness a prison escape! Free

Admission!

Gem and Mineral Show

July 27, 2025 | 10:00 - 4:00

Join us for our annual gem and mineral show, because History Rocks at Old New-Gate!
Free Admission!

Trades Day

August 23, 2025 | 10:00 - 4:00

Join us for an interactive day of historic and contemporary trade demonstrations! Free Admission!

Photo courtesy of Capture LLC



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