



A Note from the Deputy SHPO

Hello, and Happy New Year everyone!

For most of us, 2020 was anything but a typical year. It was full of unprecedented challenges and lots of unknowns as well as unique opportunities.

When I joined the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office staff six months ago, the office had already successfully pivoted to a completely remote work environment. Staff adapted their processes and procedures and continued their exemplary work in each of our program areas: environmental review, reviewing tax credit applications, managing the National and State Registers of Historic Places, and coordinating our various grant programs. In addition to these core program responsibilities, each member of the staff continued their work on a variety of special projects, attended site visits, routinely supported and collaborated with their fellow staff members, and provided technical assistance to applicants, government agencies, non-profits, and the public.

The staff of the Connecticut SHPO should be proud of all they have accomplished throughout the past year.

The SHPO would also like to thank our many partners who have worked with us over the course of the year to advance our mission to identify, register, and protect the buildings, sites, structures, districts and objects that comprise Connecticut's cultural heritage. Our work would not be possible without the dedication, knowledge, and expertise of our colleagues within the State's preservation network.

Looking forward to 2021, we hope to continue our efforts to advance the goals laid out in *Shared Stewardship: 2018-2023*, Connecticut's statewide historic preservation plan. These involve building upon the State's already impressive preservation network by enriching and expanding our partnerships, enhancing our educational and outreach efforts, diversifying both the audiences we are reaching and the resources we are identifying and documenting, and developing a resiliency strategy for historic resources to ensure their protection for generations to come.

From the entire SHPO staff, I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and we look forward to working with you this year to identify, protect, and preserve Connecticut's irreplaceable historic resources.

Jonathan Kinney
Director of Operations and
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Upcoming Awards and Grants

The African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund provides grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The Action Fund supports projects focused on African American cultural heritage, and can include: Capital Projects, Organizational Capacity Building, Project Planning, and Programming and Interpretation. Letters of Intent must be submitted by Friday, January 15, 2021 at 11:59 PM local time, through the online grants portal.

[Apply Here](#)

Preservation Connecticut is accepting nominations for its 2021 Connecticut Preservation Awards. The awards honor outstanding efforts in the preservation and enhancement of historic places throughout Connecticut. Nominations are due by March 5th.

[Nominate a property here](#)

The **US Department of Agriculture** is seeking grant applications for projects to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development in rural areas. Rural Community Development Initiative grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities and community and economic development projects in rural areas.

[Apply Here](#)

Completed Rehabilitation M. Swift & Sons Gold Leaf Factory, Hartford



Congratulations to the developers of the M. Swift and Sons Gold Leaf Factory for the recent completion of the property's rehabilitation. The project was funded, in part, by state



Swift Rehabilitation By the Numbers:

Total Project Cost: \$23.7 Million
Est. Federal Tax Credit: \$3.8 Million

and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits. The property is now home to a several community kitchens, co-work office space, a podcast studio, and a school.

State Tax Credit: \$4.5 million

Over 60,000 SF of commercial space placed in service

The site is also home to one of Hartford's Black Lives Matter murals. Over the summer, the property unveiled a 900 square foot Black Lives Matter mural depicting current and past civil rights and local community leaders. For more information about the mural and last summer's unveiling celebration, click [here](#) and [here](#).

New to the National Register of Historic Places



Congratulations to the owners of the historic Winsted Water Works for the listing late last year on the National Register. The historic district encompasses approximately 210 acres of upland and water bodies in the Mad River watershed of northwestern Connecticut and includes three stone and earth dams, two earth dikes, an earth and granite canal aqueduct, a tunnel aqueduct, and two artificial reservoirs constructed

from 1893 to 1895.

The water works is significant for its role in the development of Winsted as a commercial center. It is also significant for its contribution to engineering as a large group of dams, aqueducts and reservoirs designed for the purpose of municipal water supply.



News From the Museums



Eric Sloane Museum

January has been full of excitement here at the Eric Sloane Museum. Work continues to update and digitize our archives with the plan to be virtually accessible to the public in the coming year. We were able to work with Connecticut DEEP to remove several large trees that had been damaged in summer storms. The felled trees will be utilized

for public historical skills and methods programs, like fence building, this spring. Our staff continues to work towards our reopening goal for Spring 2021. We have some exciting programs lined up that we can't wait to share with you. As always, follow the links to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date with everything going on!

Prudence Crandall Museum

Sarah Sportman, State Archaeologist (pictured on right), completed a dig at the Prudence Crandall Museum with the Friends of the Office of the State Archaeologist at the end of December. While it will be some time before artifacts are cleaned and final reports are written, it was a successful dig. Some artifacts found recently include a small pair of scissors, rusted cut nails, fragments of pottery, and an abundant amount of pipe stems. Join Sarah Sportman and curator Joanie DiMartino in conversation about the history of the site, the museum (renovations, etc.), the research completed on the students, and the archaeology past and present on Tuesday, February 2 at 5 pm on ICRV Radio for the "Archaeology in Connecticut" radio show.



the State Historic Preservation Office continues to work remotely. We will be sure to inform our constituents when we plan to return to the office. In the meantime, staff contact information can be found [here](#).

Department of Economic and
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office

