



D for Delighted - Meet our new D-SHPO



The SHPO is delighted to welcome Jonathan Kinney to his new position as Director of Preservation and Museums/Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer.

Before coming to the CT SHPO, Jonathan was a Historic Preservation Specialist with New Jersey's Historic Preservation Office (HPO), where he served as the Coordinator of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. Jonathan worked with local historic preservation commissions from all over New Jersey, providing technical assistance and training, and managing a small grant program to support the commissions' efforts to identify and preserve their communities' irreplaceable historic resources. Jonathan's previous work in the office included the

regulatory review of a variety of federal, state, and municipal undertakings pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the New Jersey Register of Historic Places Act, and various Land Use regulations.

Jonathan received a B.A. degree from the College of New Jersey, an M.A. in History from William Paterson University, and a Historic Preservation Certificate from Burlington County College. Prior to joining the HPO staff in 2007, Jonathan worked as the Coordinator for the Trenton Historical Society. A long-time resident of New Jersey, Jonathan will be relocating to CT with his wife and two daughters later this summer.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with Jonathan, he can be reached at jonathan.kinney@ct.gov.

Sleeping Giant State Park - Invitation to Comment

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is seeking comment for grant funding provided to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for repairs related to a 2018 micro-burst and tornado at Sleeping Giant State Park.



Repairs included:

- The removal of damaged trees from the picnic area, including the grinding of stumps, while the remaining debris was raked and removed from the site.
- The entire picnic area was lightly graded and seeded to prevent erosion. Downed trees were cut to clear the Tower Trail.
- The Tower Trail was widened at four locations to allow access for tree clearing and emergency vehicles by removing

portions of stone outcrops. The broken stone was then used to reinforce the trail on the opposite side from where it was removed.

- Repair work was completed on the Picnic Pavilion with new stone and Portland cement.

For more information and instructions on submitting your comments [click here](#).

From Documents to Downloads: the SHPO Goes Digital



Data regarding where cultural resources are located and why they are important is a critical component of planning for their preservation. Cultural resources are places that are significant in history and contain intact historic physical features. The SHPO maintains files generated through various studies of historic buildings, structures, areas, and archaeological sites, including survey reports and historic designation nomination forms. Until recently, the

majority of these files were available in paper format only. SHPO is pleased to announce that we have initiated a project to digitize all of these files and develop a comprehensive, statewide searchable database with an interactive map. This project will greatly enhance the ease and speed of access to information about known cultural resources. For updates or questions about the project, please contact Jenny Scofield at jenny.scofield@ct.gov.

Stewardship Relief Grant

In May, the Historic Preservation Council (HPC) voted to institute a temporary funding program to provide relief for stewards of designated historic resources. The purpose of this funding is to encourage and support the continued safeguarding of historic resources at a time when many are experiencing economic distress as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Eligible expenses are utility costs associated with the operation of the designated resource including heating, water, electricity, security systems, insurance and regular ongoing maintenance costs.

Eligible Grantees are 501 c 3 non-profits charged with stewardship of a designated historic resource. The resource must be listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places. Grant awards are between \$500 and \$1,000. The HPC has awarded 24 grants to date and SHPO is accepting applications on a rolling basis.

Please contact Mary Dunne at mary.dunne@ct.gov if you have any questions.

[Click here to apply](#)

Recent Grant Awards



On Wednesday, July 8th the Historic Preservation Council voted to approve the following Historic Restoration Fund grants:

Blackstone Library, Branford

The Blackstone Library was awarded \$100,000 for the repair and restoration of the library's rear dome. The grant will fund repairs to the terracotta and steel structure supporting the exterior rear dome as well as repairs to the interior plaster where water damage occurred.



Bristol Public Library, Bristol

The City of Bristol and Bristol Public Library was awarded \$17,500 for removal of cracked plaster from the reading rooms in the original library building, abatement of lead paint and repairs to the walls before repainting.



The Greenwich Historical Society, Greenwich

The Greenwich Historical Society was awarded \$49,999 for environmental upgrades and repairs to the porches, windows and siding on the Bush Holley house. Porch and siding repairs will be fixed with in-kind materials and the window restoration will include UV film as well as the addition of UV storm window inserts.

News from the Museums



Our state museums are closed for now, but you can still catch up on all the latest news on our website and the museums' social media pages.



Henry Whitfield State Museum

The Henry Whitfield State Museum is sending out a huge THANK YOU to all frontline workers in this pandemic era – they and all of the work they've done and continue to do are very much appreciated! In their honor, Connecticut's oldest house is lit up with blue lights on Thursday nights as part of the international #LightItBlue and

#MakeItBlue campaigns of thanks.

Photo by Ben Kuropat

Old New-Gate Prison and Copper Mine

Old New-Gate celebrated its two year anniversary of re-opening on July 14th! We would like to thank all of our visitors, partners, and volunteers for your invaluable support over the past two years. Although the museum is closed due to COVID-19, the New-Gate team remains hard at work. Follow us on social media or sign up for our newsletter to stay up to date on all the latest New-Gate news!

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Eric Sloane Museum

The staff at the Eric Sloane Museum have been busy as usual working to finish reinstalling the exhibits and collections. Work also continues on the Noah Blake cabin construction as the chimney is installed. We are very happy to be moving into the final stages of both projects in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the staff continued our Ringing of the Bell's Fourth of July Celebrations. For many years, the museum has upheld an early American tradition, favored by Eric Sloane, of ringing bells in public places to

celebrate the holiday. Although the celebration was not open to the public, the annual ringing of the large bell at the museum was live streamed via social media while educational videos and content were posted throughout the week. Brandon really came through for the effort sporting historically accurate 1770's clothing for the videos! Our fellow museums supported this effort by sharing videos of bells ringing at their sites via social media as well, we can't thank them enough!

Follow the links to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay up to date with everything going on!



The Department of Economic and Community Development, including 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

