



The Impacts of COVID-19 on SHPO Operations

The SHPO is working towards a fulltime telework plan to promote social distancing in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, SHPO staff will be accessible through email, telephone, and video conferencing. While SHPO staff will make every effort to maintain normal program operations, some services will be delayed or canceled for the foreseeable future. Please be advised of the following changes to typical SHPO protocols and procedures:

- Historic rehabilitation tax credit applications, grant applications, and environmental review requests will now be accepted electronically through email, Dropbox or other file sharing service. **Please do not send mail or hand deliver any applications or requests to the office until further notice.**
- The SHPO will be **closed to researchers**. We understand the inconvenience this will cause; however, SHPO staff will have access to digital files and can provide information to researchers as available.
- All site visits and in-person meetings are on hold until further notice.
- The **Henry Whitfield State Museum is closed** until further notice.
- **The scheduled March 27, 2020 State Historic Preservation Review Board Meeting is canceled.** All agenda items will be moved to the June 12, 2020 meeting.
- The Historic Preservation Council will continue to meet monthly via teleconference.

Any questions concerning the SHPO's programs and procedures should be directed to the relevant staff person. A list of SHPO contacts can be found [here](#). Note, all inquiries concerning the **Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program** must be directed to hometaxcredits@ct.gov. The staff of the State Historic Preservation Office wishes good health for everyone during this difficult time and thank you for your patience.

Welcome!

In happier news, the SHPO would like to congratulate Dr. Sarah Sportman on her new position as Connecticut State Archaeologist and welcome her to the Historic Preservation Council. Sarah began her career in archaeology almost 20 years ago earning an undergraduate degree from Union College, a graduate degree from the University of Massachusetts, and a



doctorate from the University of Connecticut. Sarah has worked throughout the Northeast on a variety of archaeological sites including the Norwalk Fort Site in Norwalk, a contact period Native American Fort; the Webb-Deane-Stevens Site in Wethersfield, a site dating from the first European settlement of the area; and the Dr. Brian Jones Site in Avon, the oldest known site of human occupation in Connecticut.

News from the Museums



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

Henry Whitfield State Museum

Museum Curator Mike McBride has started appearing monthly on the streaming radio station [iCRV Radio](https://icrvradio.com) for their *Museum Update* program. He talks about interesting items in the museum collection, ongoing projects (like the museum's partnership with SCSU to conduct archaeology on the museum grounds), upcoming events, and more. To listen to his past interviews, visit

<https://icrvradio.com/programs/program/280> and scroll through the list of shows. And tune in for his next episode on Tuesday, April 7th at 9:00 am.



Department of Economic and
Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office

