



STATEWIDE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN · 2025 –
2035

Weaving a Thread between the Past and Future

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Economic and Community Development
ct.gov/historic-preservation



WHAT'S INSIDE

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A roadmap for harnessing the power of historic places as a catalyst for economic growth, community wellbeing, and cultural continuity.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A roadmap for Connecticut's shared past and future

As the state agency responsible for guiding the identification, protection, and revitalization of our state's irreplaceable historic resources, the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is happy to present the *Connecticut Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2025–2035: Weaving a Thread between the Past and Future*. This updated plan builds off the many accomplishments under the previous plan, *Shared Stewardship: 2018–2023 Statewide Historic Preservation Plan*, and offers a roadmap for decision making by public, private, municipal, and nonprofit partners, so they may harness the power of historic places as a catalyst for economic growth, community wellbeing, and cultural continuity.

Connecticut's historic places are more than markers of our past. They are living assets that anchor our communities, fuel our economy, and sustain our quality of life. Historic preservation is a proven engine for job creation, housing supply, downtown revitalization, and sustainable development. Since creating the State Historic Preservation Office in 1955, Connecticut has woven preservation into its identity by investing in these irreplaceable resources. These investments yield benefits that extend far beyond numbers. Rehabilitated buildings reduce waste, bolster sustainability, expand housing opportunities, and foster walkable, vibrant neighborhoods that strengthen social cohesion and support public health.

Legislative support remains essential. Continued investment in tax credits, grant funding, and collaborative frameworks sustain thousands of jobs, attract millions in private capital, and preserve the character that makes Connecticut unique. By championing historic preservation, our state can ensure that every new chapter honors the rich threads of our shared past.

The National Park Service requires that each state has an approved statewide historic preservation plan in place to participate in the federal historic preservation program and to receive federal funding support for preservation activities. These statewide plans are meant to encourage broad public and professional participation in planning for cultural resources, meet challenges unique to each state, influence historic preservation policy in state and local governments, and inspire local communities, organizations, and individuals to action.

While the SHPO is responsible for facilitating the planning process, writing the plan, and updating it periodically, the concepts, goals, and objectives in the plan are the result of extensive collaboration among many participants. The plan will be most effective if its goals and objectives are championed and implemented by local communities, non-profit organizations, state agencies, and other partners, not just the SHPO.

During Autumn 2024, the CT SHPO led a collaborative effort to develop the plan through broad-based outreach, intended to solicit input from a wide variety of parties involved in decision-making about historic properties. This engagement strategy involved a variety of public and partner meetings and online surveys to engage stakeholders and the public.

Throughout this process, two critical needs were repeatedly identified as the most pressing: additional funding to support historic preservation activities in Connecticut, and the desire for educational and training opportunities.

Five strategic goals were developed with public input:

GOAL

1

Quality of Life

Elevate quality of life by preserving and revitalizing our historic places, ensuring they remain vibrant, accessible, and central to our cultural identity and economic vitality.

GOAL

2

Education & Appreciation

Inspire appreciation of our state's historic built environment and archaeological resources through engaging educational initiatives that deepen public understanding of why preservation matters.

GOAL

3

Partnerships

Strengthen partnerships across government agencies, non-profits, educational institutions, community groups, and preservation leaders to collectively safeguard our shared heritage.

GOAL

4

Power of Data

Harness the power of data to improve how cultural resources are identified, documented, and interpreted to encourage informed and equitable decision making.

GOAL

5

Adaptability

Promote adaptability in historic preservation practice. Recognize that the physical landscape, natural and built environment, building codes, available materials, and construction technology are dynamic, and allow for innovation in historic preservation solutions, while maintaining the integrity of historic resources.

An important aspect of the process was to ensure that the plan aligned with larger state planning efforts, including the recently adopted *Connecticut Conservation and Development Policies Plan 2025–2030*. Each of the five priority areas (referred to as Visions in the Conservation and Development plan) aligns closely with the goals and objectives of preservation and can be advanced using the potential of historic properties. These five visions are Economic Vitality, Housing Diversity, Resource Stewardship, Community Health, and Inclusion and Connectivity.

As we move forward into the implementation phase, it is our hope that the same spirit of partnership and collaboration that went into this plan will continue. Everyone in Connecticut is invited to play a role in advancing the goals of this plan and preserving our State's incredible historical legacy. We invite every resident, municipality, and partner to join in safeguarding and activating these treasures for the needs of today and the generations of tomorrow.

By championing historic preservation, our state can ensure that every new chapter honors the rich threads of our shared past.

CONNECTICUT STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE



Top row, from left: Erin Fink, Kevin Berger, Cory Atkinson, Jonathan Kinney, Catherine Labadia, Marena Wisniewski, Todd Levine.

Bottom row, from left: Julie Carmelich, Mary Dunne, Jenny Scofield, and Deborah Gaston.



SECTION ONE

Introduction

A commitment to the buildings, objects, landscapes, and archaeological sites that communicate important aspects of Connecticut's past — and a roadmap designed for everyone.

Historic Preservation is a commitment to the buildings, objects, landscapes, and archaeological sites that communicate important aspects of the past. This commitment is demonstrated by identifying, maintaining, and protecting these valuable assets for future generations.

The theme of this Statewide Historic Preservation Plan, *Weaving a Thread between the Past and Future*, is a recognition of the variety of places across the state that form the tapestry of Connecticut's personality. These places are woven into our communities to form our individual identities and to reflect our collective character. Historic preservation is simultaneously personal and shared. It can be a personal experience of where we live and where we remember our lives, or it can be a communal sense of identity and shared experiences.

Sixty years ago, few people talked about historic preservation, but public sentiment started to change when communities realized that admired historic structures were being torn down routinely, archaeological sites were being turned over by bulldozers, and entire residential neighborhoods were being razed in the name of urban renewal. Connecticut responded with action in 1955 and established the Connecticut Historical Commission, the precursor to the State Historic

Preservation Office. The newly formed commission got right to work. Their first meeting was about the Colt factory in Hartford, where members discussed actions to protect it from demolition and to generate interest in its redevelopment.

At that time, the factory was threatened by the construction of Interstate 91, and Connecticut's citizens embraced historic preservation as a mechanism to manage change. Meeting minutes recorded that even though the Commission did not have a plan ready to implement, they recognized three things: the important historic aspects of the factory that provided context to contemporary communities, the value of its embodied energy that would be lost if demolished, and an aesthetic that could not be recreated. These principles continue to guide historic preservation efforts.

Today, Colt Gateway is a thriving mixed-use community, and its blue dome is an iconic feature of Hartford's skyline. It is difficult to imagine if the factory and the community it supports had been lost to an expanse of highway.

1955

Connecticut established the Connecticut Historical Commission — precursor to today's SHPO. Its very first meeting concerned saving the Colt factory in Hartford.



Colt Armory, Hartford, CT.

National policy eventually caught up with what was already embedded in our state's culture by the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. Since that time, federal, state, and local historic preservation regulations and policies, along with generations of professional and avocational preservationists, have sewn a quilt of architecture and public art; historic sections of towns and cities; parks and parkways; bridges, dams, lighthouses, and ships; and archaeological sites that comprise Connecticut's character.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was created by this Act and is uniquely poised to carry out government-sponsored historic preservation. This plan, however, is not limited to the work of SHPO; historic preservation should not be limited to state or federal government incentives or interventions. Historic preservation has great impacts when it is locally practiced. Therefore, this plan is designed for everyone. It presents

suggested goals and objectives for individuals and organizations to help weave a preservation ethic into the fabric of their communities. In this plan, we hope that all of Connecticut's residents celebrate the importance of our individual and collective history and the benefits of preserving our historic places for future generations.

Connecticut is the sum of many communities, each with its own history and story to tell. The chapters of our history are not hidden in books but can be experienced today because of our state's preservation efforts. From indigenous populations who have inhabited the area for more than ten thousand years to immigrants of the 20th century, each group has added their threads to Connecticut's cultural tapestry. We hope this Statewide Historic Preservation Plan delivers strategies to weave together the fabric of these places with a thread that binds us to both the past and to each other.

SHPO Mission

The Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office is a state agency, located within the Department of Economic and Community Development. The office works in collaboration with residents, municipalities, non-profits, government agencies, and historic preservation partners to weave together a network that supports, empowers, and promotes historic preservation activities across the state. We strive to ensure that all Connecticut residents have access to the economic, social, environmental, and educational benefits of historic preservation, and the quality-of-life improvements that historic resources bring to our state.

Plan Purpose

One of SHPO's key federal responsibilities, codified in the National Historic Preservation Act [101(b)(3)(c)], is to take the lead on the preparation and implementation of a comprehensive statewide historic preservation plan. The plan is intended to meet preservation challenges unique to our state, influence state and local policy, and to inspire communities, organizations, and individuals to action. It is built with broad and robust public and partner participation. This collaboration ensures that the plan addresses a wide range of issues, threats, opportunities, resource types, and community concerns. The result is a plan that is relevant to and usable by all CT residents.

Historic Preservation and SHPO

Historic Preservation incorporates activities such as research, identification, protection, rehabilitation, or interpretation that can be accomplished by many different entities (e.g., non-profit organizations, professional consultants, interested individuals, or local commissions). The role of SHPO in these activities is shaped by federal and state mandates related to advising, assisting, and consulting on preservation matters. Below is a brief discussion of programs and services administered by our office. Detailed information is available at ct.gov/historic-preservation.

HISTORIC DESIGNATION

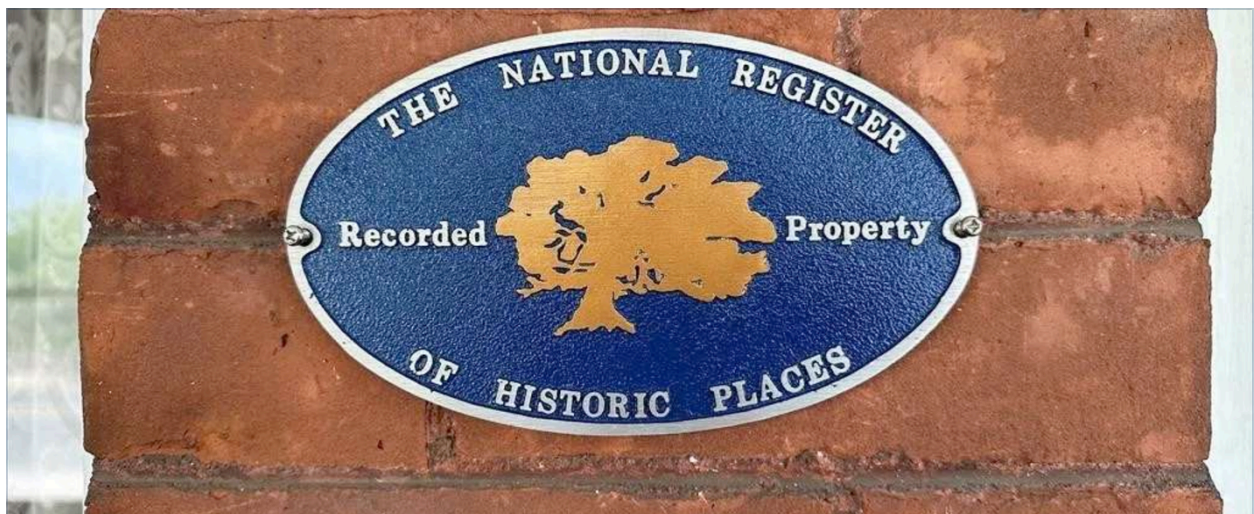
Designating a property communicates the historic significance of a place to the public. In addition to raising public awareness, historic designation provides access to incentives and can offer additional protection. SHPO assists with:

- Identifying, evaluating, and nominating properties to the National Register of Historic Places through the State Historic Preservation Review Board;
- Identifying, evaluating, and nominating properties to the State Register of Historic Places through the Historic Preservation Council; and
- Identifying, evaluating, and listing properties as State Archaeological Preserves through the Historic Preservation Council.

REGULATORY REVIEW & COMPLIANCE

Historic preservation regulations require government agencies to take into consideration the impacts of their actions on significant historic resources. SHPO assists these agencies through consultation to avoid, minimize, or mitigate harm to historic properties. In this role, SHPO:

- Cooperates with state and federal agencies for project reviews that may affect historic and archaeological resources pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and
- Provides guidance for the survey, evaluation, and documentation of significant historic, architectural, and archaeological resources that may be impacted by a project.



The National Register of Historic Places home plaque.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program is a relationship between SHPO, the National Park Service, and a community that creates a joint commitment to preservation. Any general-purpose political subdivision (e.g., city, town, or borough) is eligible for certification as a CLG. SHPO's role in this program is to:

- Work with local governments in the development of local historic preservation programs and help them become Certified Local Governments; and
- Administer grants from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund to assist certified CLGs with preservation activities.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

SHPO administers funds allocated to historic preservation from the Donald E. Williams, Jr. Community Investment Account. These funds are used to support a wide variety of preservation initiatives that include, but are not limited to, conducting historic resources surveys, preparing preservation planning or historic structures reports, completing architectural plans and specifications, promoting public awareness, supporting preservation partners, and assisting with maintenance and rehabilitation projects. SHPO offers Survey and Planning Grants, Local Preservation Partners Grants, and Historic Restoration Fund Grants.



Certified Local Government: Salisbury, CT.

www.connecticutvisitorguide.com/counties/litchfield/salisbury

TAX CREDIT PROGRAMS

Historic tax credit programs are intended to encourage private investment in preserving historic buildings and are considered a powerful economic driver. SHPO administers both federal and state tax credit programs. SHPO provides technical guidance and advice to assist applicants with the Federal Historic Tax Credit with final approval through the National Park Service, as well as the State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit and the State Historic Homes Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORIES, SURVEYS & OTHER RECORDS

The historic resources inventory and survey program provides a comprehensive approach to identifying and evaluating the state's important cultural resources. SHPO provides technical guidance for research, documentation, survey, and evaluation. It is the basis for informing many of the office's other programs and includes the following services:

- Maintaining an inventory of recorded archaeological sites, submerged resources, bridges, industrial sites, buildings, structures, dams, and designated properties;
- Maintaining a copy of previously completed cultural resources surveys and studies completed through our office for public accessibility; and
- Providing historic and archaeological resource information to be incorporated into development or planning efforts.



— Historic Plainville Campground, Plainville, CT.
facebook.com/plainvillecampground

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In addition to the programs and services described above, SHPO staff routinely performs the following additional responsibilities:

- Advising and assisting federal, state, and local governments; developers; and property owners in matters of historic preservation;
- Preparing and implementing a statewide historic preservation plan;
- Providing public outreach, education, training, and technical assistance;
- Promoting historic preservation efforts within state and local governments;
- Holding and monitoring historic preservation easements;
- Supporting Main Street communities and revitalization efforts;
- Managing historic themed trails: Connecticut Freedom Trail, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route, and Minority and Women's History;
- Coordinating actions pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act with the assistance of the State Historic Preservation Review Board, Historic Preservation Council, non-profit partners, and constituents; and
- Posting to social media and creating a monthly newsletter to promote historic preservation.



— New London City Hall, New London, CT.
mapgeo.io/stories/new-london-connecticut-the-whaling-city



SECTIONS TWO – FIVE

The People Behind the Plan

The staff, curators, council members, and review board volunteers who steward Connecticut's historic resources every day.

SECTION II

SHPO Staff List

Cory Atkinson

Archaeologist, Environmental Review

Kevin Berger

GIS Analyst

Julie Carmelich

Historian, Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits, Preservation Easements, and Social Media Coordinator

Mary Dunne

Architectural Historian, Municipal Preservation Services and Grants Coordinator

Erin Fink

Historian, Historic Homes Tax Credit and Historic Restoration Fund

Deborah Gaston

Secretary

Jonathan Kinney

Historian, State Historic Preservation Officer, Director of Operations

Catherine Labadia

Archaeologist, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Environmental Review

Todd Levine

Architectural Historian, Environmental Review, CT Freedom Trail Coordinator

Jenny Fields Scofield, AICP

Architectural Historian, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, National Register and Architectural Survey Coordinator

Elizabeth Shapiro

Director of Arts, Preservation, and Museums

Marena Wisniewski

Architectural Historian, State Register Coordinator, Environmental Review

SECTION III

Museum Staff

Morgan Bengal

Museum Curator — Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine

Chris Collins

Museum Guide — Henry Whitfield Museum

Joan DiMartino

Museum Curator — Prudence Crandall Museum

Michelle Parrish

Museum Curator — Henry Whitfield Museum

Jodi Polsgrove

Curator of Collections — State Museums

Andrew Rowand

Museum Curator — Eric Sloane Museum

SECTION IV

Historic Preservation Council

The Historic Preservation Council is established within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) by state statute. The Council, which includes 11 citizen-volunteer members appointed by the Governor for a maximum of two four-year terms, advises DECD on critical historic preservation functions.

Paul Butkus CHAIR

Elizabeth Acly

Vincencia Adusei

Elizabeth Burgess

Marguerite Carnell

Thomas Elmore

Leah Glaser

Andy Horowitz

Kent McCoy

Deanna Rhodes

Sarah Sportman

WITH GRATITUDE

The State Historic Preservation Office would like to thank the following members of the Historic Preservation Council whose service ended since the last statewide plan: Margaret Faber, Karyn M. Gilvarg, Brian D. Jones (posthumously), Katherine D. Kane, Kathleen Maher, Sara O. Nelson, Jeffrey F.L. Patridge, Fiona Vernal, Walter W. Woodward, and Ellen Zoppo-Sassu.

SECTION V

State Historic Preservation Review Board

Established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Review Board in each state provides expert advice about the significance of historic resources. Board members are appointed by the State Historic Preservation Officer and represent a variety of historic preservation-related professional disciplines. Their primary function is to review nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and recommend whether or not resources meet the criteria for National Register listing. The State Historic Preservation Review Board relies on support provided by SHPO staff.

Christopher Wigren CHAIR

Phil Barlow

Cecelia Bucki

Stephanie Dyer-Carroll

Kenneth L. Feder

John Herzan VICE-CHAIR

Mark McMillan

Priyanka Panjwani

Cece Saunders

With Thanks

The State Historic Preservation Office extends our appreciation to architect Jared I. Edwards for his exceptional service to Connecticut as a member of the State Historic Preservation Review Board for 44 years, serving as chair from 1989 to 2024!

In Connecticut, the volunteer Board promotes the value of historic preservation as an integral part of the activities of every community by providing guidance to the State Historic Preservation Office and recommending properties for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Edwards devoted much of his life to infusing communities he engages with a lasting preservation ethic and has proved through his architectural projects that historic buildings can be not only repurposed but also reimagined with more dynamic spaces. In his role on the Board, Mr. Edwards guided more than 1,000 National Register nominations for Connecticut properties, contributing to their ongoing stewardship.



Jared I. Edwards. Courtesy Clare Edwards.

1,000+

National Register
nominations guided
by Jared I. Edwards

SECTION SIX

Accomplishments 2018 – 2024

A look at SHPO's work over the last six years — creativity, flexibility, and advocacy through the challenges of a pandemic and beyond.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Shared Stewardship

The theme of our previous plan, *Shared Stewardship*, became ever more relevant as SHPO worked through the unique challenges of the pandemic during the period covered by this plan, 2018–2024. Amidst the logistical, social, and economic challenges of this time, our historic places remained integral to the qualities that make Connecticut thrive. At the same time, caring for our cultural resources required creativity, flexibility, and increased advocacy. Here's a look at some of the State Historic Preservation Office's work during the last six years, including actions that directly addressed the goals of the previous plan and met the challenges of the pandemic.

During the pandemic, SHPO created an emergency Stewardship Relief Grant to assist Connecticut nonprofit organizations with basic utility and regular maintenance costs associated with the upkeep of designated historic resources. Grants of \$1,000 were awarded to 56 organizations. The Stewardship Relief Grant introduced new

participants to SHPO funding and led many to apply for Survey and Planning grants and other programs.

SHPO also waived the match for Survey and Planning Grants for State and National Register nominations and collaborated with Preservation Connecticut through our shared Circuit Rider program to provide free State Register nominations to homeowners as the need arose, to make it easier to designate historic properties without tapping into other funds. This eliminated a barrier to accessing financial incentives. SHPO simultaneously waived the match on grants for architectural plans and specifications to facilitate applications to the Historic Restoration Fund grant.

To stay connected, SHPO staff made themselves available through virtual office hours for various programs and ensured transparency by posting board meeting minutes and procedures online. Board meetings also moved to a hybrid format to keep the work of the office moving and offer new ways for the public and interested parties to participate.

56

Organizations awarded
Stewardship Relief Grants

\$1K

Per emergency relief grant
during the pandemic

2023

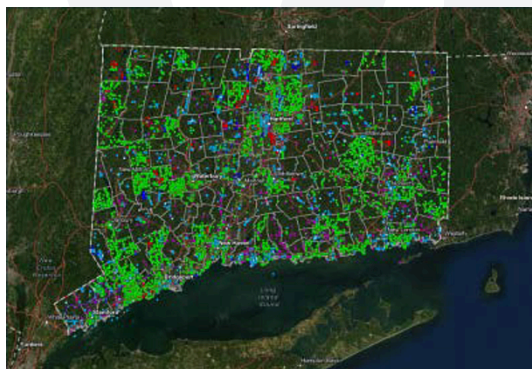
ConnCRIS launched — the
state's first comprehensive
map & database

Digitizing access to records

Aligned with a statewide policy to digitize information, SHPO transformed access to our archival records and program processes into a user-friendly online system. ConnCRIS, the Connecticut Cultural Resources Information System, launched in spring of 2023, serves as the state's first comprehensive map and database of documented historic places and archaeological sites. SHPO worked closely with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Office within the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management on the development of the ConnCRIS application.

Building from the capacity enabled through ConnCRIS, SHPO launched digital submission systems for environmental reviews and requests for State and National Register of Historic Places eligibility evaluations. Electronic applications for our Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit programs and Historic Restoration Fund Grant (via Survey Monkey Apply) substantially improved efficiency and ease of access to our financial incentive programs. As another layer of digital access, SHPO expanded the content available through the state website, which can be viewed in multiple languages.

★ Esri presented CT SHPO with the Special Achievement in GIS Award at the 2025 Esri User Conference.



SPOTLIGHT

Preservation Connecticut initiated a new lunchtime webinar series, "Talking About Preservation," in spring 2020 as outreach programming pivoted to include remote choices. Since then, 70 webinars have been completed for a variety of topics. An average of 25 people per lecture attend the live version, with many more accessing the content recording on-demand. SHPO staff and other preservation partners provided several of the presentations. As demand for in-person events returns, Preservation Connecticut is expanding the series with on-site local programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnerships

Partnerships are vital to achieving preservation goals and increasing appreciation for historic places. SHPO supported existing partnerships through staff contributions to programming, shared documentation projects, funding for operating support, and by advocating for our partners when communicating with regional and national preservation organizations. Most importantly, we rely on partners as part of regular collaboration on proactive projects to recognize historic places and increase opportunities to learn about preservation in the state. The strong statewide network of advocates helped identify potential solutions, as various threats to cultural resources arose.

Through the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act, SHPO regularly engaged with community members and municipal leaders. National Register-listed buildings in East Hampton, Greenwich (7 buildings), Glastonbury, Manchester (2 buildings), and Milford were saved through negotiation before referral to the CT Office of the Attorney General. Protection Act cases in Clinton, Groton, New Haven, and Suffield were referred to the Attorney General, but also resulted in preservation before any legal actions were taken. In Clinton, a nineteenth-century corn crib was relocated and restored, and another resource was preserved on-site. Although a case in Stamford resulted in the loss of two buildings, the community was compensated for the loss through preservation of the Blickensderfer Factory and a

\$100,000 donation that was used to rehabilitate homes contributing to the adjacent National Register-listed district.

SHPO enhanced partnerships by collaborating with other state agencies in an effort to improve historic preservation policy. In both a regulatory capacity and as a collaborator, SHPO regularly works with other state agencies for training, workshops, or finding solutions. One notable collaboration between SHPO and DOT is the development and expansion of a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement to include the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Railroad Administration. This agreement is the first of its kind in the country and will streamline the review of the state's important transportation projects.

Locally, SHPO established more regular communications with partner organizations, including quarterly meetings with Institutional Support for Capacity Building grantees. SHPO also expanded the collaborative Circuit Rider program with Preservation Connecticut by bolstering funding for staffing and the Technical Assistance Consultancy (TAC), and coordinating on preservation easement and CT Environmental Protection Act matters. Municipal preservation partners grew from 2018–2024 through the acceptance of Madison, Torrington, Wethersfield, and Wilton into the Certified Local Governments program. The use of local historic preservation ordinances expanded through the addition of 24 individual properties and 3 districts.

SPOTLIGHT · CIRCUIT RIDERS

From 2018–2024, Preservation Connecticut Circuit Riders made 1,312 site visits with constituents at 1,100 historic sites. Circuit Riders also administered the Maintenance and Repair Grant program using Community Investment Account funds and awarded \$368,825 for projects at religious properties between 2018 and 2024.

While reinforcing relationships with existing partners, SHPO established new partnerships to cultivate a larger preservation network in Connecticut. SHPO worked with Docomomo US to plan the annual Docomomo Symposium, which was held in New Haven (2023) and focused on topics related to modernism and urban renewal-era resources. As part of a sponsorship of the symposium, SHPO subsidized registration for in-state residents, to increase access to this important national network. Preservation Connecticut joined SHPO to complete a statewide landscape documentation project for Olmsted firm-designed landscapes in the state, and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects partnered on associated programming and online resources. The National Association of Olmsted Parks (now the Olmsted Network) engaged in visioning for the project and incorporated the final inventory forms into Olmsted Online.

SHPO, the Town of Simsbury, and the Trust for Public Land coordinated to preserve the Cullman Brothers tobacco farm fields where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other students from southern black colleges worked. The Town and Trust for Public Land purchased the property using donations and funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CT Department of Agriculture, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Department of Economic and Community Development.

SHPO, in partnership with the non-profit Amistad Committee Inc., administers the Connecticut Freedom Trail, which documents and designates

sites that embody the struggle for freedom and human dignity, and celebrates African American communities. The Connecticut Freedom Trail was established in 1995 by an act of the CT General Assembly and when the program was launched in 1996, there were 60 sites in 30 towns and cities. Today there are more than 170 sites in more than 60 towns and cities. Categories include the Story of the Amistad, the Underground Railroad, the Civil Rights Movement, and Concepts of Freedom.

In 2020, the CT Freedom Trail formed a new partnership with the Connecticut Democracy Center (CDC) to complete outreach efforts for new sites and to reach underrepresented communities where they are. Using SHPO Partners in Preservation grants, the CT Freedom Trail and Connecticut Democracy Center were able to bring on staff, establish The Black Narratives Committee, begin online webinars called "Conversations at Noon with the CFT," host Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit workshops in underrepresented communities, and create a new website.

The Connecticut Freedom Trail also partnered with the Pomeroy Foundation to develop a plan to place markers at 20 Connecticut Freedom Trail sites across the state, including the New Haven Armory owned by the City of New Haven. Site selection and the drafting of marker text are ongoing. The Pomeroy Foundation is a non-profit organization whose initiatives include a road-side signage program focused on historic research, preservation, and heritage tourism.

170+

Connecticut Freedom Trail sites today, in 60+ towns and cities (up from 60 sites in 1996)

20

Pomeroy Foundation markers in development to be placed at Freedom Trail Sites statewide

SPOTLIGHT · MAKING THE PROCESS SIMPLER

A first-of-its-kind multimodal agreement

The State Historic Preservation Office, working with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration, developed a Programmatic Agreement to streamline the review of ground transportation projects in Connecticut and their impact on historic properties. The multimodal agreement is the first of its kind in the nation designed to accelerate and enhance the review process for transportation projects. This agreement will ensure that our critical transportation infrastructure projects can balance the needs of the state while still caring about our environment following a time-saving process.



— East Haddam Swing Bridge, Haddam, CT.

This first-of-its-kind agreement is a great example of the commonsense approach we are taking at USDOT... We hope more states are interested in entering this more efficient agreement to streamline the regulatory process.

STEVEN BRADBURY, U.S. DEPUTY TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY

SPOTLIGHT

The Connecticut State Department of Public Health incorporates information about appropriate treatment for historic processes during trainings for local code enforcement officials working on residential lead poisoning cases.

SPOTLIGHT

Historic New England partnered with Edward Gerber to create the Edward F. Gerber Urban Preservation Fund for the restoration of owner-occupied historic homes in Connecticut.

SPOTLIGHT

The Norwalk Preservation Trust collaborated with the City of Norwalk to develop and implement Historic Preservation Incentive Zoning.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Education

Beyond improving accessibility and expanding partnerships, SHPO continued to strengthen outreach and educational opportunities to grow the historic preservation ethic in Connecticut. Within government, SHPO completed training offerings to state agencies such as the Department of Housing, other units of the Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority. As part of a mitigation for impacts caused by cleanup after the tornado at Sleeping Giant State Park, FEMA and SHPO provided a day-long training for staff at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on historic preservation regulations such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

SHPO routinely offers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) training with HUD, conducts municipal trainings regarding environmental compliance, and offers training for project recipients of Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) funding and the Community Investment Fund (CIF). Following annual trips to the National Preservation Advocacy Week in Washington, D.C. with in-state partners, SHPO reached out to Connecticut legislators and established a legislator newsletter to increase regular communication. SHPO produced statewide historic preservation conferences in 2018 (Shared

Stewardship) and 2019 (Back to Basics), collaborated on UCONN's Historic & Green conference (2020), and sponsored the Docomomo US Symposium (New Haven, 2023). During the 2018 conference, SHPO awarded professional development fellowships to emerging Connecticut preservationists to support activities that would enhance preservation knowledge in the state. SHPO also added instructional videos to the state website and continued regular eblast newsletters to encourage engagement with the office.

Locally, SHPO supported municipalities with their proactive preservation activities. SHPO assisted town planners in integrating historic preservation into local decision making by providing data and input for Plans of Conservation and Development, as requested. To support Certified Local Governments (CLGs) and Local Historic Property and District Commissions, SHPO conducted approximately 8 LHD/CLG in-person trainings a year, with virtual trainings during the pandemic. Regional trainings enabled participation from residents in every county in the state. Other regular local education offerings included community meetings about historic designation programs, energy efficiency, financial incentive programs, and historic preservation in general. SHPO supported the regional Councils of Government through presentations and participation in special events, as requested.

2,500+

Visitors connected with TradesUp at SHPO sites since 2022, with roughly 100 local trades professionals serving as SPARK presenters and volunteers.



— SPARK Festival, Eric Sloane Museum, Kent, CT.

Within the state, SHPO and museum staff boosted program value by coordinating events and using our state-owned museums as action labs to disseminate information about historic preservation. SHPO hosted the annual state archaeology fair at the Henry Whitfield Museum in Guilford (2023 and 2024) and Old-Newgate Prison and Copper Mine in Granby (2022). Each year, the family-friendly event includes on-site digs, demonstrations, and presentations meant to inspire an appreciation for history and archaeology. SHPO collaborated with the Eric Sloane Museum in Kent and the non-profit organization TradesUp to produce the annual event "Touch a Trade," later named SPARK (2022–2024). The event provides an opportunity for youth to experience the building trades and historic restoration concepts, through hands-on activities with real-life materials.

Through the SPARK Festivals, Youth Workshops at Sloane, and the other programs at the Henry Whitfield and Eric Sloane Museums, TradesUp connected with more than 2,500 visitors at SHPO sites since 2022. Approximately 100 local trades professionals have served as SPARK presenters and volunteers since 2022. Presenter Mikayla Travers shared that she was inspired to become a farrier after she saw another female farrier when she was younger and hoped to inspire future tradespeople by participating in the event. A parent who attended the event shared that TradesUp "had such a positive impact on my son, providing him with incredible opportunities and skills that have truly changed his life."



— Olmsted designed Seaside Park, Bridgeport, CT.

SHPO recognizes the need to inspire future generations of preservationists, welcome other practitioners into the field of preservation, and contribute to opportunities for skill enhancement. Graduate students from the University of Connecticut (UConn) engaged directly with SHPO initiatives. Students from the School of Public Policy drafted a historic preservation economic impact study in 2021 through an internship program, while graduate landscape architecture students joined professional consultants for fieldwork and on-site analysis during the SHPO-led Olmsted Landscape Documentation project.

SHPO also regularly engages with local students through participation in career events and guest lecturing at colleges such as Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), Quinnipiac University, Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU), and UConn. SHPO provided support for the initiation of a Cultural Resources Management Certificate program at CCSU and the future graduate degree program in archaeology at SCSU. In 2024, SHPO partnered with Ed Advance to offer a series of five continuing education classes that covered topics applicable to preservation work.

In 2023, the Connecticut Data Collaborative accepted SHPO into a program to develop a Data Strategic Plan. This enhanced ongoing efforts to regularly track outreach efforts and create data-driven adjustments. Based on the recommendations, SHPO implemented a feedback mechanism for education and outreach initiatives, continued online event registration, and established a centralized system for tracking grant program metrics.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Expanding Audience and Resources

Historic Preservation is not exclusive. It is the practice of maintaining tangible physical features with important historic connections, for the benefit of current and future generations. Collectively, these features represent layers of human interaction with the natural and built environments. Historic resources may hold different meanings or evoke different experiences depending on the audience. Resources identified as significant in history are not limited to one particular time period, construction type, or affiliation. With this understanding, SHPO worked

to engage a wider range of people in the recognition of historic places and to expand documentation coverage.

Internally, SHPO added new members to its governing bodies, including the State Historic Preservation Review Board and Historic Preservation Council, to represent a variety of professional expertise, geographic distribution, and backgrounds. SHPO welcomed new participants to existing programs through specific projects such as social history mapping of the Cape Verdean community in Norwich, with the St. Anthony Chapel Foundation.

Identification of Historic Resources

The recognition of cultural resources is critical in planning for their stewardship. SHPO regularly works with communities to explore, identify, document, and communicate the significance of these resources. Community-driven historic designation projects resulted in the continued State and National Register listing of properties common to Connecticut's built landscape, including industrial complexes, former schools, agricultural resources, Mid-Twentieth-Century Modern architecture, neighborhoods, and downtowns.

Landscapes

SHPO completed several projects focused on known gaps in documentation, such as landscape architecture. Connecticut holds a unique place in the history of landscape design. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. (1822–1903), known as the father of American landscape architecture, was born in Hartford and formed an early appreciation for the restorative qualities of nature and the state's inherent scenic beauty that inspired his career. Olmsted and his legacy firm completed more than 6,000 projects throughout the country from 1857 to 1979. Connecticut remains a key part of this national story, as the place of Olmsted's early inspiration, formative social connections, education, gravesite, and 298 design commissions.

In partnership with Preservation Connecticut and the Olmsted Network, SHPO highlighted the state's role in the Olmsted Legacy through the completion of a historic context and statewide survey. SHPO linked the project to the national Olmsted 200 celebration and used it as a platform to initiate a more robust program for historic landscape documentation and stewardship in the state. Public events such as a "Saturday in the Park" were held to invite residents to learn about historic landscapes. CT SHPO and Preservation Connecticut received the 2022 Connecticut Olmsted Award from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society for Landscape Architects.

IDENTIFICATION

African American History

Several projects addressed a gap in documentation of social history and ethnic heritage. SHPO helped raise the profile of the Connecticut Freedom Trail (CFT) program, which recognizes local places significant in Civil Rights and African American history. Additional staff increased capacity, and website development enhanced the impact and dissemination of information to a wider audience.

Following the acceptance of the Constance Baker Motley site in Chester to the CFT in 2018 and the rediscovery of Southern Black College students' experiences working on Connecticut tobacco farms in the mid-twentieth century, a new thematic category, Civil Rights Movement, was incorporated into the CFT program.

Subsequently, five more Civil Rights Movement sites received CFT recognition and CFT staff recategorized other sites to clarify their historic associations. During this time, SHPO secured an African American Civil Rights Grant from the National Park Service and initiated a National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation project for Southern Student Work Programs on Connecticut Tobacco Farms, 1916–1962. Some of these seasonal workers, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., later expressed how experiencing a more integrated society in Connecticut made an impact on their lives as the Civil Rights Movement developed.

CONNECTICUT FREEDOM TRAIL

1995

Established by act of the CT General Assembly

60

Sites in 30 towns and cities at launch in 1996

170+

Sites in more than 60 towns and cities today



IDENTIFICATION

Archaeological Resources

Archaeological sites comprise a significant portion of the state's cultural resources. SHPO works to ensure archaeology receives equal focus within the cultural resource field. Recent historic designations included State Register listing and archaeological preserve designation of Gungywamp (Congungewamphset), a cultural landscape within state parkland in Groton that is affiliated with Pre-Contact indigenous and Colonial Period history. The D & H Scovil Industrial Historic District, listed in the National Register in 2024, contains archaeological features from mid-19th through early 20th century mill sites. The archaeological significance of Beman Triangle, a 19th-century subdivision in Middletown, established by Black homeowners, was recognized on the National Register in 2026.

In Ledyard, SHPO worked with a developer on an agreement to preserve Fort Decatur, a nationally significant archaeological site associated with the War of 1812. Understanding that their property contained the remnants of the fort, and in light of concerns expressed by local, state, and national groups, the developer sought ways to achieve their economic goals while avoiding impacts to the resource. The proponents hired a cultural resources consultant and met with SHPO to engage in pre-consultation meetings in anticipation of regulatory compliance responsibilities associated with projected necessary federal and state permits.

In a series of meetings and correspondence spanning from April of 2023 to January of 2025, SHPO worked with the proponent to come to an agreement to reduce the effects to this significant

site. The negotiations resulted in the permanent preservation of a 3.44 acre portion of the Fort's earthworks and sentry post through donation of the site to The Archaeological Conservancy regardless of project outcome. This early effort allowed the project to remain economically viable for the proponent, proceed through the consultation process, and will result in a tangible outcome for the public.

To assist local communities with the management of historic cemeteries, SHPO created a non-invasive survey program to identify the locations of unmarked burials using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). Of the 14 grants awarded since 2023, four were awarded to cover projects not subject to regulatory oversight, two were awarded to projects seeking to verify historic written accounts, and the remaining eight projects came from organizations seeking to identify unmarked burials within cemeteries under their care. Examples include the Town of Wilton, which used the grant to explore the location of suspected burials on a development site not subject to regulatory review. The survey allowed the developer to proceed while providing community assurance that the project would avoid impacts to suspected burials. Without the program filling gaps where regulations did not apply, the site may have been destroyed. Connecticut College used the program after the exposure of an archaeological site during construction in an area known to contain indigenous burials, as part of a commitment to the tribal community to actively plan, manage, and steward archaeological resources on their campus.

SPOTLIGHT

The New Haven Preservation Trust championed the achievements of historical Black designers through projects like the National Register of Historic Places designation for Long Wharf, constructed by William Lanson, and by conducting architect interviews, archived to the NHPT website.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sustainability

Sustainability in historic preservation means pursuing strategies that increase the ability of historic resources to withstand environmental conditions and support the retention of natural resources within the built environment. The sustainability work completed during the last statewide plan period (2018–2024) followed SHPO's response to Hurricane Sandy, which battered cultural resources in Connecticut's coastal communities in 2012. Building off the best practices guides, planning analyses, repair work, and renewed inventories of historic coastal resources, SHPO worked to raise awareness about the potential effects of environmental conditions on historic properties and recognize historic places and traditional building methods that are inherently adaptable. SHPO received Preservation Connecticut's Award of Merit for Resiliency Planning for Preservation in 2020.

From a statewide perspective, SHPO provided cultural resources data to UCONN's CIRCA to incorporate into climate vulnerability mapping. This effort connected locational information for identified resources with other data layers, used by multiple state agencies, planning organizations, municipalities, and the public. SHPO also contributed to the State Plan of Conservation and Development and increased the technical information available online. Through collaborative participation in events such as UCONN's Historic & Green conference (2020), SHPO

facilitated professional development related to disaster response, hazard mitigation, and historic preservation. SHPO also reviewed federal policies and synthesized technical literature on adaptation as it applies to historic preservation for applicability in Connecticut, to make findings available to local communities.

SHPO promoted sustainability solutions for historic properties throughout our programs and educational offerings. A new Historic Preservation and Energy Efficiency section on SHPO's website provides links to a variety of technical guidance, including an energy efficiency guide for homeowners, prepared by CT Greenbank at the request of SHPO. Staff also provided in-person, local talks (Wilton, Vernon, and Cornwall) on how to integrate sustainability and historic preservation goals, with community-specific examples. Adaptive reuse of the 1936 East Haven High School into affordable senior housing involved Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits and followed Passive House requirements, demonstrating how energy goals and historic preservation can be integrated for successful development outcomes. From the regulatory perspective, SHPO guided the avoidance of direct impacts to historic properties during solar field development projects, allowing for the construction of sustainable infrastructure without substantial loss of cultural resources.

SPOTLIGHT · EMBODIED ENERGY

In 1955, the newly formed Connecticut Historical Commission, which became SHPO, led discussion about embodied energy in historic buildings during visioning for the preservation of the Colt Factory in Hartford (now a National Historic Landmark). Federal preservation policy regarding energy took shape during the 1970s. The National Park Service published their first bulletin on Energy Efficiency in 1978, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation produced a report in 1979 entitled "Assessing the Energy Conservation Benefits of Historic Preservation."

SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES IN CONNECTICUT

169 communities, one cultural tapestry

Connecticut is known for its scenic quality, New England charm, history, and innovation. Each of the 169 municipalities has a distinct look and feel, derived from changing land use patterns and historic associations during centuries of inhabitation. Variations in geology and socioeconomics also contribute to differences in the physical characteristics of the state's communities. A multiplicity of historic associations is represented by the 115,000 historic and archaeological resources in Connecticut documented through survey and designation. Selected resource types are discussed throughout this section.

115K

Documented historic & archaeological resources

169

Municipalities, each with a distinct character

12K yrs

Of human settlement documented

1639

Earliest dated aboveground resources

A PORTRAIT OF THE STATE

Archaeological Resources

Nearly 7,000 reported archaeological sites document more than 12,000 years of human settlement in the state. Of these, at least 14% (n=1,000) have been reported as destroyed. As a point of comparison, in 1979, SHPO reported that 45% (n=309) of its archaeological resources had been destroyed. The decrease likely represents better site management, an increased preservation ethic, and improved recording. While it is unfortunate that these sites have been lost for future generations, their recorded information assists with creating a context for understanding archaeology in Connecticut.

Recorded sites represent every aspect of human settlement and exploitation of resources. These sites are located in a variety of settings including upland forests, the banks of small streams, the plains of major river valleys, the bottom of Long Island Sound, rock shelters, and coastal areas. They also represent a variety of uses, including large villages, single homesteads, workshops, extraction quarries, cemeteries, forts, or hunting camps to name a few. During the past decade, the vast majority — over 95% — of archaeological sites were reported by professional archaeologists because of compliance-driven surveys. This is in contrast to the majority of sites prior to 1980 having been reported by research organizations and avocational archaeologists or collectors.

Despite the volume of recorded sites, what we know of the archaeological record in Connecticut pales in comparison to what we do not know. Because most

sites are recorded as a result of highly visible (e.g. artifact-dense) sites or regulations, the distribution of identified sites tends to cluster in areas of more recent development. These locations also have a disproportionate number of sites that have been destroyed. Sites may not be reported in some areas of the state not because they are not there, but simply because no one has looked for them. As a result, the archaeological record is skewed towards where archaeologists have looked for sites and recorded information; this is not a situation unique to Connecticut. Therefore, one goal of SHPO is to encourage towns to complete town-wide archaeological surveys to better understand the nature and unbiased distribution of sites for better management of this diminishing and finite resource.

The earliest site in the state is radiocarbon-dated to 12,500 years ago and was identified in Avon as part of compliance-driven archaeological investigations completed during the period covered by the last statewide plan. There are slightly more than two dozen sites recorded from the Paleoindian period in Connecticut. This site in Avon is one of only a handful excavated throughout the Northeastern United States using modern excavation and analytical techniques on a large scale. As a result, it will add a tremendous amount of information to our understanding of this earliest period of human settlement in the region. The final analytical report will be available next year.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES REPORTED DESTROYED

45% **14%**

1979

Today

A decline reflecting better site management & recording.

95%

Of sites in the past decade reported by professional archaeologists via compliance surveys

Archaeological sites from the subsequent Archaic and Woodland periods are more numerous (approximately 2,300 sites), but nearly 50 percent of the recorded precontact archaeological sites have no temporal affiliation reported (approximately 2,000 sites). This is likely the combined result of limited field efforts, the ephemeral nature of some site types, and the differential preservation of artifacts that are not diagnostic of any time period. Despite temporal affiliation, most sites are described as camps or sites of an unknown function. For these same reasons, 20 percent of the post-contact sites are not attributed to a particular century and very few (approximately 35 sites) are identified as dating from the seventeenth century. Nearly half of all post-contact sites date to the nineteenth century with an almost equal number of sites (approximately 375 sites each) reported for the eighteenth and twentieth centuries.

2,300

Sites from the Archaic and Woodland periods

2,000

Precontact sites with no temporal affiliation reported

~35

Sites identified as dating from the seventeenth century



Brian D. Jones Paleoindian site, Avon, CT.

A PORTRAIT OF THE STATE

Aboveground Resources

Recorded historic resources in Connecticut date from 1639 through the late twentieth century. The numbers of documented properties are naturally higher in denser areas, such as Fairfield County and the urban centers of Hartford, New Britain, New Haven, New London, Norwich, and Waterbury. Coverage is more limited in Tolland and Windham counties. Approximately 52 percent (more than 55,000) of recorded properties in the state contribute to designated historic districts. While districts may contain a mix of resource types, each historic component contributes to the historic significance and understanding of that place. Since the late 1970s, 285 Connecticut properties were listed in the National Register under Multiple Property submissions, which are documents that provide historical context for properties with shared thematic or geographic associations.

Housing and Community

Domestic resources make up 55% of the total documented historic properties. While Connecticut has many significant high-style

examples of housing, vernacular housing types are also prevalent, consistent with housing trends throughout the country.

Mid-nineteenth through early twentieth-century worker housing surrounding industrial complexes is present throughout the state, with company-built mill villages more common in the easternmost regions. Dominant industrial worker house forms in Connecticut include 2.5-half-story, wood-frame buildings with gable roofs and entrances on the gable end, often with full-width front porches and cornice returns or triangular pediments. Variants of the form include 1 to 1.5-story front-gabled cottages, cross-gabled houses with a side wing, and houses later converted into Two-Deckers. 1.5 to 2-story rectangular Double Houses and longer boarding houses exist on individual properties as well as in clusters like in the Taftville/Ponemah Mill Historic District in Norwich. Farmhouses similarly are expressed with simple forms, often incorporating elements from popular styles. Gabled or gable-front-and-wing farmhouses with Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, or Italianate features are common, along with Capes of various ages. Connected farmhouses are less prevalent in Connecticut than in other portions of New England.

55%

Of documented properties are domestic (housing)

52%

Contribute to designated historic districts (55,000+)

285

Properties listed via Multiple Property submissions since the late 1970s

Historic apartment buildings are more common in denser areas and often include late-nineteenth through early twentieth century masonry buildings. Separation of land uses and the increasing scale and number of apartment buildings were discussed during the passage of Connecticut's first statewide zoning enabling act in 1924. Several municipalities had begun work on zoning ordinances as early as 1921, while others did not adopt zoning codes for several more decades. Early apartment buildings included several variants of wood-frame or masonry 2.5 to 3-story, 6-unit plans organized with two units per floor. The "Perfect Six" version of this type became prevalent in Greater Hartford and morphed into slightly larger forms in subsequent decades. Development of approximately 20-unit, often 4-

story apartment blocks often overlapped with construction of the 6-unit type, Two- and Three-Deckers, and burgeoning suburbs.

Nineteenth-century streetcar suburbs are often linear in arrangement, while early twentieth century suburbs of single-family home lots platted simultaneously are more grid-like, and mid-twentieth century suburbs incorporate more curvilinear patterns. Residential high rises became incorporated into the built landscape after World War II, such as the 85-unit Casa Frouge in Bridgeport (1955). Increased availability of building components and the introduction of the Connecticut state building code in 1971 influenced architecture in Connecticut in the Post-Modern period. Twentieth-century multi-family housing is under-documented.



— Perfect 6, Hartford, CT. [facebook.com/groups/439504127191333](https://www.facebook.com/groups/439504127191333)

A PORTRAIT OF THE STATE

Village Centers and Downtowns

Historic village centers and downtowns are as essential to the distinct identities of Connecticut towns as the neighborhoods they support. The physical shape of these spaces is linear along transportation corridors, in radial arrangements stemming from historic harbors, or around town greens. Formal grid plans are less common, with exceptions such as the Colonial 9-square plan in New Haven. Waterways, railroad lines, topography, and churches also shaped development patterns. In rural village centers, the church and green often define the space, while in urban downtowns such as New Britain, churches of various populations mark each corner. Historic cemeteries are often located within the town or village center, with cemeteries sited outside downtowns in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Approximately 1,600 historic cemeteries have been documented in Connecticut.

Main Streets are marked by banks of commercial buildings that create a rhythm along the streetscape through ground-floor storefronts and

architectural details. Historic town halls, firehouses, banks, libraries, theaters, and transportation stations serve as downtown anchors and often include high-style examples of architecture, particularly in the Italianate, Queen-Anne, Second Empire, Colonial Revival, and Neoclassical styles. School buildings exhibit a full range of educational development, from one-room examples (often relocated or repurposed) to multi-story, masonry nineteenth-century and early twentieth century neighborhood schools, central high schools, specialized buildings, and campuses. So far, more than 4,000 historic civic buildings and 3,500 commercial resources have been documented in Connecticut. By the early twentieth century, networks of parks complemented urban centers. Many town centers were reenvisioned during the City Beautiful, Colonial Revival, and Urban Renewal movements, and current municipal plans for transit-oriented development, connectivity, and walkability incorporate these inherent qualities in historic downtowns.

1,600

Historic cemeteries
documented in Connecticut

4,000+

Historic civic buildings
documented

3,500

Commercial resources
documented



— Litchfield Country Courthouse now The Abner Hotel, Litchfield, CT.



— The Andrews Building, New Britain, CT.
jaskogroup.com/portfolio/andrews

A PORTRAIT OF THE STATE

Production

Connecticut has a legacy as a place of production and supply, across multiple disciplines. More than 12,000 documented historic resources are related to the state's robust agricultural, industrial, and commercial history. This number is disproportionate as some of these historic places have multiple features within them and because similar properties are still being documented.

Connecticut retains Colonial farmsteads and nineteenth-century agricultural establishments that originally ranged in scale from subsistence to regional surplus and suppliers of international maritime trade, with an average farm size around 100 acres by the late nineteenth century. Early exports included grain, lumber, tobacco, linseed oil, onions, apples, and wool. Late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century specializations included seeds, truck farming, dairying, poultry farming, and shade tobacco. The total acreage of farmland dropped rapidly after 1910, and by the 1920s, immigrant farmers began acquiring unwanted former farms. Historic agricultural properties contain a vast range of specialized building types, set within landscapes that retain ice and cow ponds, shade trees, stone walls, orchards, and

pastures. Granges, fairgrounds, and institutions such as the Connecticut Agricultural School (1875) also represent the state's agricultural character.

Extraction and processing of natural resources contributed to Connecticut's economy and materials supply. Iron ore processed in blast furnaces in northwestern Connecticut resulted in iron used for anchors, farming equipment, mill components, and nails. Numerous stone quarries served not only local purposes but also contributed to the national building supply. Stony Creek Granite and Portland Brownstone are present on buildings, structures, and sculptures across the country. Connecticut-made bricks were used regionally and local lumber businesses supplied design and construction services. Connecticut lumber industries played a role in the standardization of dimensional lumber in the early twentieth century. Palliser & Palliser of Bridgeport produced architectural pattern books and would tailor plans to specific sites. Other companies such as the Berlin Iron Bridge Company / Berlin Steel Construction Company produced materials such as roof trusses before developing metal bridge systems.

Connecticut has a legacy as a place of production and supply, across multiple disciplines.

Shipbuilding; machinery; hardware, tools, and farming implements; brass; clocks/timepieces; and textiles and buttons represent some of the state's most prolific industries. As specializations increased in the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries, Connecticut also developed internal support systems, with some manufacturers focused on creating patterns, machine parts, and specialized tools and machinery for other establishments. Development in commercial educational tracks and trade schools followed shifts in the state's manufacturing economy. Houseware producers, such as Singer Sewing Machine Company, the Fuller-Brush

Company, and General Electric, were headquartered in the state. Connecticut served as a critical supplier in the defense sector during every century, starting as a supplier of food, cannon, and ships. During World War I, more than half of the nation's munitions were manufactured in Connecticut, and during World War II many factories in the state transitioned to making a large variety of military supplies. Connecticut also emerged as a twentieth-century leader of submarines and aircraft. Historic railroad lines and spurs, stations, and powerhouses; dams and waterpower systems related to the state's industrial heritage are extant in the landscape.

12,000+

Documented historic resources related to Connecticut's agricultural, industrial, and commercial history.



— Seth Thomas Clock Factory, Thomaston, CT. [facebook.com/groups/439504127191333](https://www.facebook.com/groups/439504127191333)

A PORTRAIT OF THE STATE

Innovation

Connecticut's historic resources represent both tradition and innovation. During the 19th through early 20th centuries, when the national average for U.S. patents issued was one per every 3,000 people, Connecticut averaged from "one patent per 700 to one per 1,000 people." More than 20,000 patents were issued to Connecticut inventors from 1800–1890. In the medical field, Connecticut contributed to the development of programs for mental health, reflected in historic places like the Hartford Institute of Living and historic state-run mental hospitals, as well as treatments for influenza and tuberculosis.

From a creative perspective, Connecticut's scenic landscape, railroad access from New York, and cultural centers such as Yale University in New Haven and the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford attracted enclaves of writers, artists, and designers. Art colonies developed in Cos Cob, Mystic, Lyme, and Silvermine, while New Canaan became one hub of Modernist architects. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., who grew up in Greater Hartford and roamed through the Farmington River Valley, took inspiration from the Connecticut environment in the formation of his picturesque and naturalistic design ideology.

20K+

Patents issued to Connecticut inventors from 1800–1890 — at a rate far above the national average of one patent per 3,000 people.



— The Talcott Brothers' Mill, textile factory, Vernon, CT. crosskey.com/projects/historic-preservation/the-old-talcott-mill-apartments



— Seaside Sanatorium, tuberculosis hospital, Waterford, CT. connecticuthistory.org/seaside-tuberculosis-sanatorium-waterfords-contested-oceanfront-gem

A PORTRAIT OF THE STATE

Water

Connecticut's 6,000 miles of streams and rivers, more than 2,000 lakes and reservoirs, and 332 miles of Long Island Sound coastline have substantially shaped the state's history. While only a small number of documented historic resources (outside of those associated with indigenous communities) are directly identified as having a maritime history association, the impact of these waterways on Connecticut life and history is significant. 24 municipalities front Long Island Sound and many municipalities are crossed by or border rivers that empty into the Sound. The navigable Connecticut River, which flows south from northern New England through Connecticut, turns southeast at Middletown and Portland and empties into the Sound between Old Saybrook and Old Lyme. 23 municipalities are sited along its banks, including several places with nationally significant military, quarrying, shipbuilding, and maritime trade history.

The Connecticut River Valley is also known for its fertile agricultural land. To the east, the Yantic, Shetucket, and Quinebaug rivers feed into the Thames River (originally the Pequot River), a navigable channel flowing from Norwich to the Sound at New London and Groton. This corridor was home to Connecticut's largest fishing and whaling fleets, as well as the historic Coast Guard campus and forts associated with the War of 1812 and Civil War. The Housatonic and Naugatuck

Rivers flow through the west side of the state and merge in Derby before emptying into the Sound in Milford. Waterpower harnessed along these rivers and their tributaries supported the development of a substantial historic industrial corridor, and the income generated by those industries is reflected in the designed landscapes and downtowns of the associated communities. The Quinnipiac River, which flows roughly from New Britain to New Haven Harbor on the Sound, was also dammed to support waterpowered mills and hydroelectricity.

Connecticut's water resources, along with other scenic natural landscapes, inspired significant historic recreational development and became associated with early land conservation efforts. Lake Waramaug, for example, which was originally within the land inhabited by the Wyantenock/Potatuck (later Schaghticoke) tribe, developed into a seasonal resort with several inns following establishment of railroad service to the area in the mid-nineteenth century. The state acquired land on the Lake for a park in 1920, during the foundational years of the Connecticut State Park System (established 1913). As a long-popular site for rowing races, the Lake was used as the site of the U.S. Olympic trials Regatta in 1972. Seasonal beach communities that emerged along the Connecticut shoreline are also associated with ethnic history, with stories of both exclusive and inclusive experiences.

People

In any overview of historic resource types, it is important to recognize the experiences of the people associated with historic places. These are the stories of challenges and inspiration, cultural traditions, and social heritage that help people form connections to a place. Often, the influence of a community is reflected in the built landscape, but not all historic associations are immediately visible. With the vast amount of archival materials and search indexes recently added to online libraries, researching social history is becoming more practical and efficient than during documentation efforts of the 1950s through 1980s. In Connecticut, social history themes as well as history from the recent past are considered in updated documentations of historic properties.

VII

SECTION SEVEN

By the Numbers

State Historic Preservation Offices offer a variety of programs, and the measurable results of Connecticut's show where preservation moves the state's economy, housing, and communities.

FEDERAL HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

The most significant federal investment in rehabilitation

The Federal Historic Tax Incentive Program (HTC) is the most significant financial investment the federal government makes toward the rehabilitation and reuse of our nation's historic buildings. To date, the credit has preserved more than 50,000 properties in every state, leveraging more than \$235 billion in private investment. According to a 2020 National Park Service study, the HTC returns more to the U.S. Treasury than it costs: the HTC has generated \$42.9 billion in federal tax revenue from \$32.6 billion in federal tax credits.

QUALIFIED REHABILITATION EXPENDITURES APPROVED, BY YEAR

2024		\$118.3M · 23 proj.
2023		\$118M · 27
2022		\$135M · 8
2021		\$211M · 12
2020		\$88M · 4 proj.

Numbers from Federal Historic Tax Incentives for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings Annual Reports, FFY 2020–2023.

CT ECONOMIC IMPACT

A recent study prepared by the National Park Service with assistance by Rutgers University found that in Federal Fiscal Year 22, historic rehabilitation tax credit projects in Connecticut that used the federal historic tax incentives program created 2,155 full and part-time jobs, of which 1,317 were located in the state. Additionally, the jobs generated from the projects produced \$66.9 million in income in Connecticut.

50K+

Properties preserved nationally, in every state

\$235B+

Private investment leveraged nationally

\$42.9B

Federal tax revenue generated from \$32.6B in credits

2,155

CT jobs from FFY22 HTC projects (1,317 in-state)

STATE HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

A 4.2-to-1 return on state investment

4.2:1

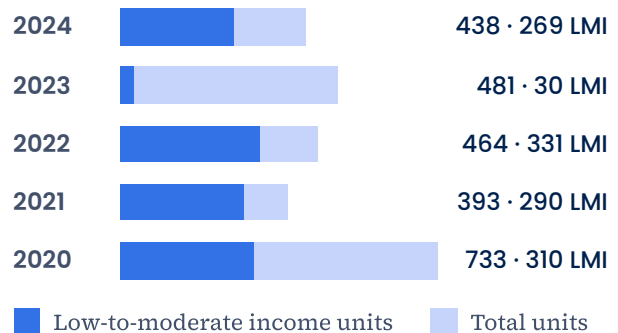
LEVERAGE RATIO

Connecticut has a State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program (CGS sect. 10-416c) that can be combined with the federal credit or used independently. The state program leverages outside funding by a ratio of 4.2 to 1.

VOUCHERS, PROJECT COSTS & NEW APPLICATIONS

YEAR	VOUCHERS	PROJECT COSTS	NEW APPLICATIONS
2024	\$9.27M · 5 proj.	\$36.4M	28
2023	\$16.8M · 17	\$70.4M	34
2022	\$33.5M · 21	\$141.1M	32
2021	\$14.4M · 14	\$50.2M	25
2020	\$49.33M · 15	\$156.7M	22

HOUSING UNITS CREATED, WITH LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME SHARE (LMI)



\$127.8M

Vouchers issued
2019–2023

\$507M

Private
investment
leveraged 2019–
2023

800K

Sq ft of
commercial space
created

2,509

New housing
units 2020–2024
(49% low-to-
moderate income)

HISTORIC HOMES REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT

Connecticut is one of few states to offer a historic preservation incentive specifically for homeowners. This program (CGS sect. 10-416) is designed to offset the cost of maintaining a historic home. In July 2024, an option was added to either claim the credit against personal income liability in CT or sell the tax credit voucher to a C-Corporation.

TAX CREDIT VOUCHERS ISSUED, BY YEAR

2024		163 · \$3.1M
2023		114 · \$2.4M
2022		83 · \$1.7M
2021		55 · \$1M
2020		59 · \$1.4M

GRANTS

To support the local preservation network, SHPO provided \$1,530,940 in basic operating support to preservation partners (2020–2024), including funding of Preservation Connecticut's Circuit Rider Program. An additional \$553,098 was awarded to 8 organizations for special projects, and \$55,139 in Stewardship Relief Grants during the pandemic.

GRANTS AWARDED ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS, BY YEAR

2024		40 · \$1.33M
2023		44 · \$2.75M
2022		56 · \$3.19M
2021		64 · \$2.27M
2020		83 · \$1.91M

700%

From 2020–2024, SHPO awarded \$5.7 million in Historic Rehabilitation Fund (HRF) Grants across 70 municipal and non-profit projects, leveraging \$11.4 million in investment. With a current annual budget of just \$1 million, 2024 requests totaled \$7,088,000 — demand exceeding available funds by 700%.



— Roseland Cottage Barn, Historic Restoration Fund, Woodstock, CT.

DESIGNATIONS / PLANNING

Recognizing and protecting place

More than 1 million Americans live in National Register-listed homes or districts in virtually every county in the nation. Connecticut has 65 National Historic Landmarks, with the modernist First Presbyterian (Fish) Church in Stamford designated in 2021 and the Barnum Institute of Science and History in Bridgeport designated in 2023.

45

New National Register listings 2020–2024 (incl. 20 districts)

32

New State Register designations (incl. 1 district)

65

National Historic Landmarks statewide

38

Archaeological Preserves (Gungywamp added 2023)

28 Multiple Property Submission (MPS) listings provide a framework for resources with shared historical contexts.

54 municipalities (≈32%) are Certified Local Governments — 4 added 2020–2024, of 2,125 nationwide.

25 sites added to the Connecticut Freedom Trail (2020–2024).

11 grants awarded for Ground Penetrating Radar survey of unmarked burials since 2023.

58 communities participate in the Connecticut Main Street Program (12 professionally managed).



— The Mark Twain House, Hartford, CT.
vermontpublic.org/2024-10-09/mark-twain-house-ct-hartford-anniversary-150-years

REGULATORY

2,200

REVIEWS / YEAR

SHPO staff complete an average of 2,200 reviews of state or federally funded projects every year to ensure the consideration of cultural resources in development projects, while facilitating project timelines.

76% No Historic Properties Affected

22% No Adverse Effects

2% Adverse Effects

Between 2020–2024, SHPO staff responded to 17 potential Connecticut Environmental Protection Act cases. Of those, 16 were resolved through negotiation, and a temporary injunction was filed in court for one. 11 were referred to the Office of the Attorney General but all were negotiated to resolution. Throughout the state, 18 of 26 properties listed in the National Register that were threatened with demolition were saved through the Protection Act.

STATE MUSEUMS

Four historic sites, one shared mission

Over four years, the state museums attracted 97,835 visitors (approximately 24,458 per year) and generated \$580,509 (\$145,127.25 per year) in revenue.

STATE MUSEUM	TOWN	VISITORS	REVENUE	VOL. HRS
Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine	East Granby	47,088	\$363,145	—
Eric Sloane Museum	Kent	35,765 (tracked)	\$107,058	1,282
Henry Whitfield State Museum	Guilford	13,283	\$85,722	905
Prudence Crandall Museum	Canterbury	1,749	\$24,584	352

Prudence Crandall Museum was closed for restoration in 2021 and held a quiet reopening in 2022. Eric Sloane Museum admission was free / not tracked in 2021.

97,835

Total visitors over four years (~24,458 / year)

\$580,509

Total revenue generated (~\$145,127 / year)



— The Prudence Crandall Museum, Canterbury, CT. wbur.org/radioboston/2018/05/10/the-remarkable-history-and-women-behind-the-prudence-crandall-museum

VIII

SECTION EIGHT

Planning Process

Connecticut's first Statewide Historic Preservation Plan developed entirely virtually — shaped by surveys, public meetings, and the voices of partners across all eight counties.

At the beginning of the planning process, SHPO sought to engage audiences around the state in conversations about historic preservation to guide the development of the 2025–2035 Statewide Historic Preservation Plan. These conversations provided feedback about preservation activities, identified areas of improvement from past plans and programs, and informed the goals and objectives of the new plan. SHPO staff gathered public and partner input during Fall 2024, with engagement assistance from FHI Studio, and was informed by the National Park Service's Guidance for Developing Statewide Historic Preservation Plans. This is Connecticut's first Statewide Historic Preservation Plan to be developed entirely virtually.

Planning Process Timeline



DEVELOPED ENTIRELY VIRTUALLY

4

Virtual meetings

306

Survey responses

53

Municipalities

8

Counties represented

Outreach and engagement activities included:

SHPO opened public engagement with an interactive online survey, which was posted from October 29, 2024, to December 31, 2024, during the series of public meetings. Invitation to participate in the survey was publicized through email newsletters and social media by the SHPO, Preservation Connecticut, and other local partners. SHPO received 306 responses representing 53 municipalities and all eight of Connecticut's counties.

SHPO hosted four virtual meetings to solicit input on the plan. Two meetings designed for the general public were held on October 29, 2024, and December 11, 2024, via Zoom. A total of 105 people attended, with a higher number (78) at the October meeting. State and local organizations attended a meeting tailored for preservation partners on November 6, 2024; twenty-four individuals representing sixteen different organizations

participated. One virtual meeting for public officials was held on November 19, 2024, attended by forty-two individuals representing at least twenty-nine different organizations.

Each virtual meeting began with a presentation about the planning process by SHPO staff, including the timeline for development, required sections of the plan, and the importance of public engagement to ensure that the plan is responsive to the preservation needs in the State. Discussion focused on achievements that met the previous plan goals, areas of additional work needed, and the draft goals and vision for the new plan. Participation was encouraged through real-time polling questions and discussions moderated by SHPO's outreach facilitation consultant. Participants asked questions and provided additional comments at the end of each meeting and through the chat function.

306

Online survey responses

53

Municipalities represented, all 8 counties

105

Attendees across two public meetings

4

Virtual engagement meetings hosted

WHAT WE HEARD

Challenges

Responses to the in-person meetings and interactive survey revealed perception issues regarding historic preservation and decreasing awareness of the value of historic resources. While many participants felt that Connecticut, in general, is doing well with the preservation of historic resources and that historic places/landscapes contribute to the quality of life in the state, preservation is often dismissed as a lesser goal when compared to other issues. The online survey indicated that respondents were not aware of how historic preservation contributes to the economy, benefits the environment, or supports tourism, and do not feel strongly that preservation of historic resources enhances an understanding of the past. Connecticut's preservation partners expressed the need to overcome antipathy toward preservation, describe the economic benefits, and promote historic resources as not just nice to have, but essential.

Participants requested more educational programs that foster an understanding of preservation. While local organizations held many successful events to engage people in preservation, both community organizations and public officials requested more training opportunities on historic preservation funding, regulations, and strategies.

Participants expressed increased demand for collaboration on preservation matters between community organizations and government entities, and between municipalities and regional/state government agencies. There is a need to foster the concept that the whole

community is responsible for the preservation of historic resources. Government officials also described a need for publicity for preservation activities.

Respondents unanimously stated that there is not adequate funding for municipal, non-profit, and private preservation efforts. Government officials indicated that use of funding programs was the most common way of engaging with preservation activities, and 100% responded that it is important for the state to support municipal preservation efforts. Lack of funding was stated as one of the threats to preservation of historic resources (specific to historic neighborhoods, rural landscapes, and commercial centers), along with development pressure and neglect.

The planning outreach process also resulted in participant-driven discussion of the intersection of historic preservation with topics such as housing, energy efficiency, and storm hardening. The integration of historic preservation incentives into zoning and building codes was identified as both a goal and preferred strategy. Concerns were raised regarding the compatibility of housing incentives and how to consider preservation during implementation. Participants requested the integration of historic preservation into floodplain management and expressed the need to consider changing building codes and materials performance in preservation projects. Meeting modern energy codes and the rising cost of construction were described as challenges to historic rehabilitation projects.

100%

Of government officials responded that it is important for the state to support municipal preservation efforts.

2

Top needs identified throughout: additional funding and more education & training.

GRAPHICS / SURVEY RESULTS

Values are strong — awareness of benefits is not

These online survey responses, submitted by members of the general public, differed substantially from those received in response to the polling questions presented during the live public meetings. While the general public values historic preservation, as evidenced by the first four questions, the remaining questions demonstrate a lack of familiarity with the many benefits of historic preservation. These responses illustrate the need for additional education that demonstrates the economic, environmental, social, and other contributions of historic preservation to a community.

While the individual respondents reflected little of Connecticut's demographic diversity, survey responses were received from 53 municipalities representing all eight of Connecticut's counties. These communities consist of urban centers, such as Bridgeport, New Haven, Torrington, and Hartford, as well as rural populations in places like Kent, Thompson, North Stonington, and Woodbridge. As a result, there was good representation across the state reflecting concentrations of different resource types (e.g. industrial sites, neighborhoods, and farms) and different pressures on preservation (e.g. declining population, increased development, and economic instability).



— Downtown Norwich Historic District, Norwich, CT. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downtown_Norwich_Historic_District

SECTION NINE

Goals & Objectives

SHPO developed these goals through engagement meetings, a review of online survey responses, and conversations with constituents. According to the National Park Service, the goals are broad statements about future desired conditions — they may not be achievable in the near future but are pursued through associated objectives and discrete actions. Each goal is followed by realistic, measurable objectives — the state's preservation priorities for the near future.

GOAL

1

QUALITY OF LIFE

Elevate quality of life by preserving and revitalizing our historic places, ensuring they remain vibrant, accessible, and central to our cultural identity and economic vitality.

87%

Of those polled during public engagement meetings thought historic places are "definitely" an important component of quality of life in a community.

Historic preservation is much more than safeguarding old buildings — it's about protecting the heartbeat of a community. Preserving historic resources nurtures a shared identity, instilling pride and a sense of continuity that deepens residents' connection to their roots. In essence, historic preservation transforms familiar streetscapes into living narratives that invite storytelling, reflection, and innovation.

By integrating the past with the present, communities create vibrant environments where modernity and tradition coexist. Restored structures and revitalized districts not only become centers for economic activity and tourism but also promote sustainable practices. In this way, historic preservation is intrinsically linked to quality of life — it cultivates social cohesion, inspires creative public spaces, and ensures that every new chapter is firmly grounded in a rich, shared history.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Increase access, reach, and capacity of historic preservation programs to enhance community vitality and improve quality of life.
- 2 Catalyze the revitalization of underutilized and vacant historic properties through strategic investment, technical expertise, and meaningful public engagement.
- 3 Identify community-specific quality of life priorities and align historic preservation strategies to advance those outcomes.
- 4 Leverage historic preservation as a tool to create, rehabilitate, and adapt housing that meets diverse community needs.

What can I do to increase our quality of life using historic preservation?

Concerned Individuals & Historic Property Owners	Unlock the value of your property by using and promoting the Historic Homeowners Rehabilitation Tax Credit. Every restored home strengthens neighborhood pride and long-term livability. Activate your community as a tenant by seeking regular maintenance agreements in leases, pursuing historic designation for the neighborhood to promote a culture of stewardship, and engaging with local planning efforts and organizations to promote local preservation.
Non-Profit Organizations	Activate overlooked spaces. Partner with owners of vacant historic properties to bring them back to life through pop-up art exhibits, community events, or temporary programming that sparks energy and attracts future tenants. Encourage residents and visitors to explore local places. Monitor proposed legislation affecting historic preservation.
For-Profit Businesses	When expanding or relocating, look to existing historic buildings first — these spaces offer authenticity, visibility, and inherent value. Celebrate history as part of your marketing program and support local initiatives. Connect to a local Connecticut Main Street program.
Municipal Government	Lead with intention. Create meaningful incentives for adaptive reuse, embed historic preservation into your Plan of Conservation and Development, and strengthen blight ordinances with consistent enforcement. Consider historic preservation in implementation of other goals, such as housing development, energy infrastructure, and storm hardening. Support maintenance of quality housing in historic buildings and access to historic landscapes through local programs.
SHPO	Broaden the impact. Expand access to financial incentives, recognition programs, and technical assistance so more communities can preserve what makes them unique. Adjust tax incentive programs to cover gaps in coverage.
State Agencies	Establish a preservation ethic. Set aside funding dedicated to maintaining historic buildings. Prioritize reuse of historic properties when meeting demand for new facilities, deaccessioning property, and completing substantial improvements. Engage municipalities and communities early in the project planning process during infrastructure projects.

GOAL

2

EDUCATION & APPRECIATION

Inspire appreciation of our state's historic built environment and archaeological resources through engaging educational initiatives that deepen public understanding of why preservation matters.

66%

Of those polled were not certain, or felt that there were not adequate educational programs available that foster an understanding of preservation.

During the public meetings, it became abundantly clear that historic preservation efforts have been bolstered by education activities. This includes a combination of sharing knowledge about historic preservation with the public, practitioners, and policy makers. Educational programs that inform a community about its heritage — such as little-known people that we can relate to or events that impacted the trajectory of history — can instill a sense of public pride in these places that connect us to the past.

Education is one of the most successful ways to address threats to historic resources and create a positive statewide preservation ethic. We heard about the need to share more about historic preservation to dispel myths and to share success stories that can serve as examples for other locations. Together this information could be used to advocate with local and state government officials for increasing incentives, reinforcing preservation legislation, and improving the overall perception of how historic preservation contributes to Connecticut's quality of life.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Deliver impactful educational experiences that foster meaningful engagement and build practical preservation skills.
- 2 Expand access and participation by leveraging digital platforms to share trainings and educational resources effectively.
- 3 Cultivate the next generation of preservation professionals by creating hands-on learning and skill-building opportunities.
- 4 Develop educational materials tailored to the needs and interests of diverse audiences.

What can I do to advance historic preservation-related education?

Concerned Individuals & Historic Property Owners	Build your knowledge — and your impact. Attend conferences, webinars, and workshops, then put what you learn into practice. Go further by volunteering with or joining a local history organization or exploring programs through the National Council for Preservation Education. Share your knowledge with friends and neighbors.
Non-Profit Organizations	Be a catalyst for learning. Lead webinars, present at conferences, and host workshops with preservation experts. Tap into funding opportunities through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to grow educational programming.
For-Profit Businesses	Turn expertise into influence. Share your technical knowledge, lessons learned, and real-world case studies to mentor others. Communicate changes in industry standards or building/property requirements that affect historic spaces. Consider providing hands-on training opportunities.
Municipal Government	Invest in knowledge that lasts. Organize public workshops, provide ongoing training for local preservation commissions, and integrate historic preservation into school curricula to inspire the next generation of stewards. Engage with local preservation groups on proposed changes to zoning codes or zoning incentive programs.
SHPO	Set the standard. Develop accessible educational programs, support partner-led events, and actively distribute resources that empower communities to preserve their heritage. Track national policy initiatives and share information with constituents.
State Agencies	Practice responsible policy. Incorporate preservation education into regular training to ensure familiarity with state and federal historic preservation regulations. Integrate historic rehabilitation skills into construction workforce and facility/grounds maintenance staff education.

ECHOING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Programs like SPARK at the Eric Sloane Museum and the state archaeology fairs already model this goal — connecting more than 2,500 visitors with the building trades and hands-on history since 2022.

GOAL

3

PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthen partnerships across government agencies, non-profits, educational institutions, community groups, and preservation leaders to collectively safeguard our shared heritage.

★ Common suggestions for improved collaboration: students, local non-profits, state legislators, the developer community, Councils of Government, and municipal officials.

During the public/partner engagement process, stakeholders consistently stated that historic preservation in CT could be improved by better integration of preservation values into municipal planning, processes, and regulations, as well as increased overall collaboration of historic preservation activities around the State. This collaboration is essential for forging a unified approach to safeguarding our historic resources. By uniting community leaders, preservation experts, architects, government agencies, and local residents, projects benefit from a diverse array of

insights and expertise. This synergy enriches the present preservation process and helps ensure that initiatives are truly reflective of the community's history and present-day needs.

Effective collaboration breaks down silos, fostering open communication and mutual trust among all parties involved. This collective approach can turn challenges into opportunities for innovation and progress. Ultimately, by working together, stakeholders create vibrant places that honor the past, inspire future growth, and improve quality of life for all community members.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Identify shared priorities with existing or new partners to leverage collective resources and expertise.
- 2 Strengthen awareness and support for historic preservation among elected and appointed officials.
- 3 Foster meaningful collaboration between preservationists and allied fields to boost impact.
- 4 Sustain cross-organizational partnerships to streamline coordination, improve efficiency, and achieve stronger, shared outcomes.
- 5 Amplify success stories to demonstrate the tangible benefits of historic preservation for residents.
- 6 Connect historic preservation to contemporary priorities — such as housing, sustainability, connectivity to community destinations, and economic vitality — to reinforce its relevance and value today.

What can I do to encourage further collaboration amongst historic preservation stakeholders?

Concerned Individuals & Historic Property Owners	Get involved. Attend local commission meetings, put preservation on the radar of elected officials, and speak from lived experience. A well-timed conversation with a legislator or a compelling public comment can shift priorities faster than you might expect. Take advantage of preservation programs that help fund preservation in your own house or community.
Non-Profit Organizations	Break out of your lane. Attend each other's events, co-host programs, and publicize wins across networks. When organizations share stories — not just struggles — they build momentum and demonstrate that preservation delivers real community value. Engage local students and residents through programming, and form relationships through mentorship or mutually beneficial programs.
For-Profit Businesses	Demonstrate that preservation works. Celebrate completed work with open houses or networking events, invite feedback on projects, and showcase before-and-after stories. By highlighting successful preservation through marketing and social media, you normalize it as both good business and good stewardship. Seek creative solutions to design challenges through communication with preservation partners.
Municipal Government	Act as convener. Identify people interested in preservation and create opportunities for connection. Host gatherings for historic property owners, pursue Certified Local Government (CLG) status, and activate historic spaces as community assets. When people gather in preserved places, the value becomes tangible.
SHPO	Coordinate efforts. Create regular forums for connection, memorialize relationships in agreement documents, and bridge gaps between agencies or groups that don't naturally collaborate. Sustain new partnerships through regular communication and by aligning efforts across sectors.
State Agencies	Treat historic places as critical resources. Promote historic preservation as a compatible goal to others, including affordable housing development, energy efficiency, walkability, land conservation, and economic development. Plan for the reuse of historic properties to further these goals. Facilitate idea-sharing between partners to generate layered approaches for the treatment of historic properties.

GOAL

4

POWER OF DATA

Harness the power of data to improve how cultural resources are identified, documented, and interpreted to encourage informed and equitable decision making.

71%

Of those polled indicated that they are using digital resources to learn about historic preservation activities at least monthly.

Data has the power to support historic preservation as a strategic, forward-looking practice. When preservation is guided by strong data, decisions become clearer and more confident — projects can be prioritized wisely, funding can be directed where it has the greatest impact, and potential threats can be spotted before they become irreversible losses.

Data can also be used to bring history to life in new ways. With accurate, accessible information, communities can uncover and share stories that

truly resonate, turning preservation into something people can see, understand, and connect with. This transparency builds trust and invites broader public participation, ensuring that preservation efforts reflect shared values and community goals. In this way, data becomes a bridge between past and future. It strengthens stewardship in the present while laying the groundwork for more resilient, vibrant historic communities — where preservation isn't just about what we save, but how we sustain and celebrate it moving forward.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Implement user-friendly digital tools that enable the public to easily submit, access, and engage with historic preservation information.
- 2 Use data to identify gaps in historic preservation documentation and grant awards, and guide preservation policy, planning, and investment.
- 3 Tell the story of historic preservation's statewide impact and measure program success, using collected data.
- 4 Build capacity for data collection and literacy by providing accessible training and educational resources that empower staff, partners, and the public.

What can I do to advance the use of data to support the preservation of our historic resources?

Concerned Individuals & Historic Property Owners	Expand your data fluency. Attend trainings on SHPO data systems, use them to inform your advocacy, and provide feedback to make these resources more effective for everyone. Use online guidance regarding historic treatments. Seek online studies to inform local efforts.
Non-Profit Organizations	Show your impact with evidence. Track attendance and collect feedback surveys at events, and report how your work advances preservation goals. Sharing this data with SHPO helps build a stronger, more visible case for continued investment. Incorporate digital tools, such as story maps or visualizations, into interpretive strategies to promote appreciation for cultural resources.
For-Profit Businesses	Quantify the value of preservation. Participate in data-sharing efforts and document the economic benefits of your projects — from job creation to increased property values — to demonstrate preservation as a smart business strategy with a positive return on investment.
Municipal Government	Make data accessible and actionable. Track local commission activity, build and maintain a local database of significant properties (or connect to ConnCRIS), and publish information online so residents, developers, and decision-makers can engage with it easily and transparently.
SHPO	Lead with transparency and innovation. Expand the depth and accessibility of data available through online systems and equip stakeholders with training that empowers them to use this information effectively. Collect data on activities completed under plan goals by partners and funding recipients.
State Agencies	Be proactive. Incorporate cultural resources data into other modeling programs, project scoping, and regional planning efforts. Integrate digital tools into community outreach strategies for planning initiatives and development projects. Complete cultural resources surveys and monitor conditions of cultural resources located on property managed by the state to inform preservation-friendly operating procedures, maintenance, and master plans.

★ ConnCRIS — the Connecticut Cultural Resource Information System — is the cornerstone of this goal, putting the state's first comprehensive map and database of historic places in the public's hands.

GOAL

5

ADAPTABILITY

Promote adaptability in historic preservation practice. Recognize that the physical landscape, natural and built environment, building codes, available materials, and construction technology are dynamic, and allow for innovation in historic preservation solutions, while maintaining the integrity of historic resources.



This goal was created and added in response to feedback – constituents felt this topic should be a primary area of focus for the coming planning period.

Many historic buildings have structural systems and building components that are already adapted to the regional climate and promote building and economic efficiency. In addition, historic buildings tend to occupy areas that are not prone to flooding and are crafted from more durable materials. As a result, investments in the maintenance, retrofitting, or repair of a historic structure may offer an increased and enduring return.

Historic preservation is poised to make impactful contributions to the effects of climate fluctuations because it is an inherently sustainable practice. It often takes decades, sometimes centuries, for modern construction to outperform the embodied energy of an existing building. Historic buildings

were designed for local conditions, but they can also be adapted to changing code requirements, incorporating new materials, and utilizing strategies to increase their hardiness.

Although buildings tend to dominate historic preservation discussions, preservation of archaeological sites has the powerful subordinate result of increasing green spaces. This can be particularly valuable to urban heat islands or as buffers in areas vulnerable to natural disasters. Archaeologists frequently analyze the interaction between the cultural and natural environments, which can be used as a model for how previous societies successfully responded to change.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Advance sustainable solutions that support the continued use and protection of historic properties.
- 2 Share best practices and case studies that demonstrate the adaptability and long-term value of historic places.
- 3 Equip preservation practitioners with timely access to construction industry knowledge about substitute materials, building code guidance, and innovative design strategies.

What can I do to promote adaptability in historic preservation practice?

Concerned Individuals & Historic Property Owners	Make your historic property work today — and tomorrow. Use the CT Homeowners' Guide to Sustainability to explore smart updates, and tap into the Historic Homeowners Rehabilitation Tax Credit to turn plans into action. Seek storm-hardening measures for buildings and landscapes on the property. Review property insurance policy pertaining to replacement cost and hazards/natural disaster.
Non-Profit Organizations	Model possibilities. Integrate sustainable practices into projects, facilitate access to existing programs, and discuss the value of historic versus potential alternative materials.
For-Profit Businesses	Highlight successful adaptive projects, show how preservation aligns with modern goals like sustainability and economic growth, and embed preservation strategies into your core business practices. Follow National Park Service updates on substitute materials guidance.
Municipal Government	Plan for change, not loss. Monitor demolition activity and costs, track losses caused by storm events, development, and lack of funding, and proactively identify historic properties that can be adapted to serve evolving community needs — especially in times of crisis or growth. Promote an understanding of the embodied energy retained in historic buildings. Integrate natural hazard modeling programs with historic property identification and mapping. Explore creative building reuse opportunities and building/zoning code flexibility that promote preservation outcomes.
SHPO	Stay informed. Promote the inherent adaptability of historic resources, deliver practical training, and facilitate access to national guidance documents. Follow changes in state building codes, construction industry standards and costs, and availability of materials. Track performance of historic and substitute materials.
State Agencies	Coordinate efforts. Develop sustainable infrastructure with respect to key features of historic properties. Identify sympathetic solutions for historic buildings in meeting present-day accessibility, code, and storm-resistance challenges. Integrate cultural resources data into risk modeling and planning initiatives.



SECTION TEN

Coordination with the C&D Plan

How this plan aligns with — and advances — the five Visions of the Connecticut Conservation & Development Plan 2025–2030.

An important component of preparing this statewide historic preservation plan was to ensure that it was consistent with and responsive to the new *Connecticut Conservation & Development Plan: 2025–2030*, prepared by the Office of Policy and Management in accordance with the Connecticut General Statute 16a-29. According to the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management:

"The Conservation and Development Plan is the state's comprehensive strategies plan for land and water resource conservation, preservation, and development, adopted every five years by the Connecticut General Assembly. The C&D Plan establishes a set of priorities affecting the future of the state's shared natural, built, cultural, and social environments. These priorities, expressed as visions

in this C&D Plan, are intended to guide state agencies as they work individually and collaboratively to advance the state's goals."

The Conservation & Development Plan begins with a set of overarching Guiding Principles that are intended to establish the foundation for the Visions, Policies, and Implementation Measures presented in the plan. The principles, which reinforce topics that have already been incorporated by state agencies, reflect the interrelationship between the natural, cultural, social, and economic environments. Each of the Visions is presented here in conjunction with how it can be supported by historic preservation investments, programs, and practice.

THE FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Sustainable

**Equitable &
Just**

Vibrant

Resilient

VISION

1

A Thriving Economy

Connecticut will have a flourishing and diverse economy that leverages our strategic location, existing infrastructure, and natural and cultural assets.

To achieve this vision, state agencies are instructed to direct plans, programs, and investments towards activities that encourage development and redevelopment in areas with accessible and adequate transportation, sewer, and water infrastructure; support the remediation and reuse of brownfields; seek to better quantify and uphold the economic, environmental, and public health benefits of various redevelopment efforts; and promote compact, pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use development patterns around existing and planned public transportation. All of these activities are directly supported by and consistent with the goals of this statewide plan and historic preservation in general.

The impact of Historic Preservation on positive economic outcomes has been well-documented. The National Main Street Center considers historic preservation to be one of the "most powerful economic revitalization tools in the nation." Historic tax credit programs and other incentives can be the catalysts for stimulating local economies by rehabilitating vacant or underutilized historic buildings to grow tax rolls, create housing, and spur continued economic growth through job creation, heritage tourism, and increasing property values. Throughout Connecticut, historic buildings maintain higher property values than non-historic buildings of similar size in the same community. The value of historic buildings depreciates at a slower pace and recovers faster from economic down times. While

historic preservation has measurable metrics of economic impact, this measure generally is attributed to the fact that people are drawn to the workmanship and character of historic places.

With specific regard to industrial structures, such as brownfields, reuse creates an urban livability that attracts talented professionals. As the World Bank reported in the Urban Development Series titled the *Economics of Uniqueness*, "...heritage is a differentiator that attracts talent to cities." In other words, those cities that invest in historic assets also provide an enabling environment for job creation because historic places spur our imagination and retain a sense of distinctiveness that does not exist in modern building form. People are drawn to old places to experience the unique beauty, inspirational awe, or nostalgic feel.



Heritage is a differentiator that attracts talent to cities.

THE WORLD BANK · THE ECONOMICS OF UNIQUENESS

— Waterbury Union Station, Waterbury, CT. [facebook.com/groups/439504127191333](https://www.facebook.com/groups/439504127191333)

VISION

2

Housing for Current and Future Residents

A variety of housing types in vibrant, diverse communities across the state that meet residents' needs and are affordable at all income levels and all stages of life.

This vision encourages activities such as increasing and diversifying Connecticut's supply of rental and ownership, affordable and market-rate, and small and family-size housing units in a variety of medium- and high-density patterns; promoting transit-oriented development to link housing to employment, education, amenities, and services, while supporting climate resiliency objectives; and bolstering local neighborhoods through infill, new construction, rehabilitation of existing units, and adaptive reuse of existing buildings, particularly in neighborhoods subject to disinvestment.

Housing is an essential human need, the lack of which has profound effects on quality of life. Connecticut has an aging housing stock, with more than one million residences constructed before 1980 and more than 313,000 built before 1939. Most are clustered in identifiable neighborhoods that lend character to our communities. Beyond the aesthetic value that historic character and building

variety add to our landscape, historic housing contributes to the range of choice in dwelling unit type, size, and affordability. Historic buildings are a critical part of the state's housing supply because they encompass the key elements identified by this vision. Historic neighborhoods typically occupy prime locations within walking distance to community amenities, public transportation corridors, and places we habitually visit. To meet the specific needs of affordable housing, historic buildings are inherently flexible and can be adapted to a variety of uses, including conversion into multiple units or repurposing buildings into residential use. Using existing structures removes many of the obstacles inherent with new construction — being grandfathered into zoning restrictions, shorter time frames for construction, and less demand for materials. In this regard, historic preservation is simply taking advantage of available resources and their existing embodied energy.

1M+

CT residences built before 1980

313K+

CT residences built before 1939

VISION

3

Stewardship of Resources

Natural, cultural, and historic resources carefully and responsibly used and managed to bolster their ability to withstand disruptions and ensure long-term quality and viability.

To achieve this vision, state agencies are instructed to undertake actions such as preserving, protecting, and restoring historically, culturally, and architecturally significant sites, structures, landscapes, buildings, and objects — especially those underrepresented by traditional historic and cultural preservation practices — as well as increasing accessibility to natural, cultural, and historic resources to increase the health of communities across urban and rural contexts. The federal and state programs administered by SHPO — including tax credits for historic properties, planning and capital grants, the State and National Registers of Historic Places, and regulatory project reviews — all contribute directly towards achieving this vision. The goals and objectives laid out in this plan are also intended to speak to this vision and may be implemented by municipalities, non-profit organizations, private property owners, and additional stakeholders to maximize impacts.

VISION

4

Healthy People and Places

Communities that enable the health and physical, social, and mental wellbeing of residents of all incomes, races, genders, ethnicities, abilities, and ages.

To accomplish this vision, state agencies are directed to undertake actions such as improving the health and resilience of urban, suburban, and rural neighborhoods — particularly those disproportionately impacted by past practices — through enhanced active transportation, traffic safety, open spaces and recreation; brownfields remediation, housing rehabilitation, and climate change adaptation; optimizing the use of existing infrastructure and ensuring the efficiency and sustainability of future infrastructure; and remediating contaminated lands and structures to eliminate threats to public health. Historic preservation offers significant community health benefits. Reusing and rehabilitating historic buildings reduces construction waste and lowers the environmental impact of new developments. Preserved historic districts often feature pedestrian-friendly layouts, fostering walkability and encouraging active lifestyles, which in turn improves public health. These neighborhoods also support social cohesion by maintaining cultural landmarks, creating a shared sense of identity and belonging. Working within historic development patterns supports the density of development and infrastructure within existing town, city, and regional centers, which reduces sprawl and protects previous investments. Historic preservation also involves stewardship of local, public open spaces — town greens, parks, beaches, urban plazas, and gathering places.

VISION

5

Connected and Inclusive Communities

Unique, diverse, and inclusive communities that are well-connected with each other and the greater Northeast.

To accomplish this vision, state agencies are directed to undertake actions such as coordinating transportation and land use planning to encourage mutually supportive density of development near existing and planned transit; collaborating with tribal nations in conservation and development efforts to coordinate economic, social, and cultural activities between state and tribal lands; investing in neighborhood-supported placemaking; and protecting, maintaining, and increasing access to and connectivity of natural, historic, and cultural resources throughout the state. Historic preservation strengthens community connections by fostering a shared sense of identity and continuity. Preserved resources serve as tangible links to the past, helping residents feel rooted in their history while celebrating the uniqueness of their surroundings. By maintaining architectural heritage, neighborhoods retain familiar gathering spaces that encourage social interaction and civic engagement. Additionally, preservation supports local businesses and cultural institutions, reinforcing a collective pride in the community's legacy. Ultimately, these efforts help create an environment where people feel a sense of belonging and shared responsibility for their community's future.



— Little Poland, New Britain, CT. homes.com/local-guide/new-britain-ct

HIGHLIGHTED THROUGHOUT THE PLAN

Success Stories

From clock towers and mill complexes to Revolutionary War encampments and rural synagogues — proof that preservation delivers real, lasting value across Connecticut.

HISTORIC RESTORATION FUND GRANTS

Woodstock Academy • Woodstock

Listed on the National Register both individually and as part of the Woodstock Hill District, Woodstock Academy has served as an institution of learning since 1801. In 1873, the iconic Academy Classroom building was opened to students, the result of a gift from Henry C. Bowen, resident of Roseland Cottage. Since that time, the clock tower and belfry have defined the campus and are still used as a main classroom space. A 2019 needs assessment identified severe structural deficiencies and water infiltration in the tower. The Academy received a \$100,000 matching Historic Restoration Fund Grant to stabilize and restore the tower without disrupting classes, plus a Survey and Planning Grant to create plans and specifications for restoring the rest of the building.

\$100KMatching
HRF grant

Pine Orchard Chapel

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, Pine Orchard Union Chapel is a seasonal, nondenominational community building established in 1897. A three-phase restoration project was undertaken to address structural, exterior, and building-system deficiencies. The Chapel received a \$100,000 matching Historic Restoration Fund grant from SHPO in 2020 for repairs to the main-floor framing, cupola, windows and doors, and rear porch entry. Additional SHPO Historic Restoration Fund grants of \$100,000 in 2021 and \$111,837 in 2022 supported window and carpentry repairs, electrical upgrades, lead abatement, painting and interior restoration, bringing the total SHPO grant funding to \$311,837. The project also received State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.

\$311KMatching
HRF grants

— Pine Orchard Chapel, Branford, CT. pineorchardchapel.com/architectural-views.html

HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDITS

New London — City Hall & the Manwaring Building

Connecticut's diverse built history offers exceptional economic potential that also preserves community character. As a result, the state makes the same commitment to historic building rehabilitation as the federal government through a Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. These examples from the heart of New London demonstrate the importance of this commitment. New London City Hall was awarded \$839,564 in state tax credits for Phase 1 of the building's ongoing rehabilitation. The Manwaring Building was awarded \$1,169,723 in state tax credits for rehabilitation into a mixed-use development.

Landers, Frary & Clark — New Britain

Historic Rehabilitation tax credits are an important part of the capital stack that helps get projects of all sizes back in service and on the local tax rolls. These historic structures have a character that cannot be duplicated by modern construction, and putting them back into use keeps them out of landfills. As one of the first manufacturers of appliances in the country, the five-story, roughly 250,000-square-foot factory complex dates to 1908. This great structure that once provided a place to work will now provide a place to live, with 79 one-bedroom, 59 two-bedroom, and 16 three-bedroom apartments.

Aeolian Company Factory — Meriden

Recognizing the impact of the federal Historic Tax Credit program, Connecticut established its own State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program that provides a 25% tax credit on eligible expenditures. This past year, the entire \$31.7 million allotment was reserved by mid-October for 17 projects. The Aeolian Company Factory on Tremont Street in Meriden will create 82 new units of housing, of which 65 will be low-moderate income units. Since the program's start at the beginning of fiscal year 2015, it has met the annual reservation cap before the end of the fiscal year seven times.

Courtland Arms — New Britain

The Courtland Arms is a historic apartment building in New Britain's Walnut Hill Historic District. The rehabilitation included unit updates, new universal access, new windows, and general exterior maintenance, undertaken by the Chrysalis Center — a non-profit devoted to job training, housing, and health care services. With project costs over \$5 million, the project earned \$1,423,700 in state tax credits and an estimated \$2 million in federal historic tax credits.

25%

State credit on eligible expenditures

\$31.7M

Full allotment reserved by mid-October for 17 projects

154

Apartments at Landers, Frary & Clark

82

New units at Aeolian (65 low-moderate income)

The Olmsted Legacy • Statewide

Connecticut holds a unique place in the history of landscape design. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., known as the father of American landscape architecture, established his design firm that shaped the appearance of America with more than 6,000 projects throughout the country and nearly 300 in Connecticut. The state remains a key part of this national story, as the place of Olmsted's early inspiration, formative social connections, education, gravesite, and numerous design commissions. SHPO partnered with Preservation Connecticut to highlight and document the state's role in the Olmsted Legacy as part of a larger initiative called Olmsted 200.

Short Beach • Branford

Following Hurricane Sandy, SHPO studied the CT shoreline to understand what residents felt was most critical to their community identity. Outreach in Branford led to a partnership between SHPO and the Short Beach Civic Association. Short Beach is a distinct oceanfront neighborhood that developed from the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries with a mix of seasonal and year-round recreational cottages. As the place where creative figures such as poet Ella Wheeler Wilcox mingled with local families, it has a unique and ongoing legacy. SHPO assisted property owners in listing the neighborhood in the National Register in October 2019 — providing access to financial incentives and greater flexibility in code requirements for properties within flood zones.



— Short Beach, Branford, CT. [Sothebysrealty.com](https://www.sothebysrealty.com)

Route 146 Corridor • Branford & Guilford

The State Historic Preservation Office, along with representatives from various interest groups, is assisting the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) with developing a Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for CT Route 146 in Branford and Guilford. The plan will facilitate future projects along this National Register-listed transportation corridor that preserve and protect the intrinsic and unique qualities of the Route 146 Corridor for years to come.



— Route 146 Iron Bridge Shoreline Trolley Trail, Branford, CT. [tripadvisor.com](https://www.tripadvisor.com)

6 Becker Place • Rockville

A building at 6 Becker Place is a contributing resource to the Rockville National Register Historic District. Originally slated for demolition using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, SHPO staff met with town officials and offered alternatives — using CDBG or HUD funds to rehabilitate the property into affordable housing. Town officials subsequently submitted a plan to renovate the structure into a two-unit building, requiring minor modifications to the dormer and gable windows for fire egress. The rest of the windows will be restored to working order and decorative features within each unit retained. What was once going to be an empty lot will now house two families.

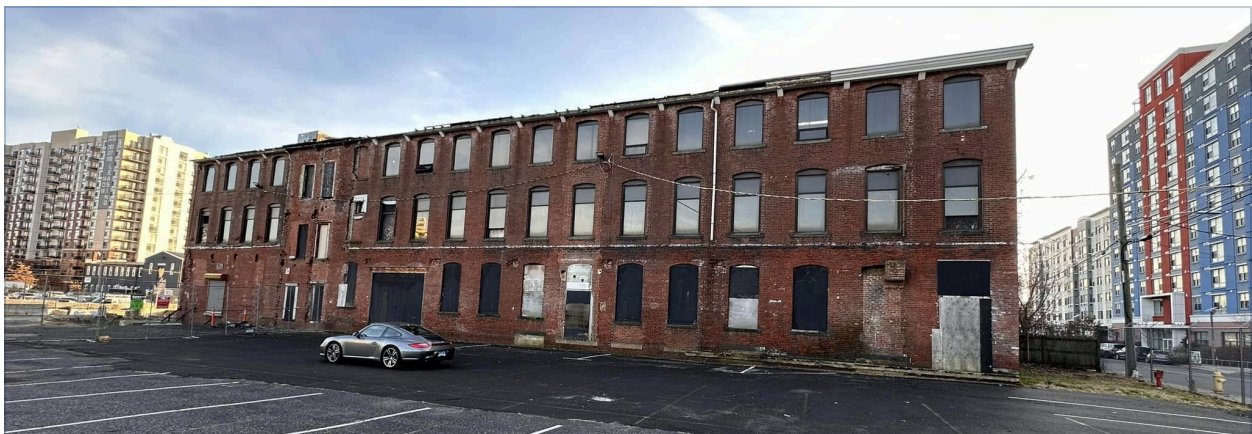
Blickensderfer Factory • Stamford

When the Blickensderfer Factory in Stamford, a contributing resource to the South End National Register Historic District, was threatened with demolition, concerned citizens petitioned SHPO to bring the matter to the Historic Preservation Council for referral to the Attorney General. As part of negotiations and Section 106 consultation, a portion of the building was preserved, and a fund of \$100,000 was created specifically for the rehabilitation of owner-occupied historic properties in the South End. Working with our statutory nonprofit partner, Preservation Connecticut, all \$100,000 was awarded to 11 homeowners. The success of the initial program has inspired interest in continuing it with additional funding.

BY THE PROTECTION ACT

18/26

Throughout the state, 18 of 26 properties listed in the National Register that were threatened with demolition were saved through the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act.



— Blickensderfer Factory, Stamford, CT. [facebook.com/groups/blickensderferstypewriter](https://www.facebook.com/groups/blickensderferstypewriter)

Digging Into History • Bolton

The Digging Into History program partnered with SHPO to conduct an archaeological excavation of a small part of a Revolutionary War encampment in Bolton. The Comte de Rochambeau and his French Army troops camped here during their march to Yorktown in 1781. The camp is listed in the National Register and designated as a State Archaeological Preserve. For four weeks, 16 Connecticut students worked with 13 students from the Seicheprey region of France to uncover the traces of the French soldiers — some of whom came from the very same towns as the students. The project was made possible through the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary era Route.

SCSU Field School • Guilford

The Department of Anthropology at Southern Connecticut State University has been conducting its summer Archaeology Field School at the Whitfield House and Museum. The recovered artifacts have broadened our understanding of Connecticut's oldest stone house, as well as the land use that preceded and followed its construction. More importantly, the students are gaining skills to prepare them for a growing workforce. SCSU has partnered with local Cultural Resource Management firms to provide students with on-the-job training and internships.

Putnam Memorial Park • Redding

A project at the site of the Continental Army's 1778–1779 winter encampment (now within Putnam Memorial Park) received funding from the American Battlefield Protection Program to enhance the visitor experience by leveraging GPS and GIS technology with a smartphone mobile application. Led by CRIS Radio with an interdisciplinary team including SHPO, the project aimed to incorporate diverse perspectives — Native Americans, African Americans, women, and war widows — and make Revolutionary War history an accessible, appealing educational experience for individuals of varied abilities through technology.

NEHFES Synagogue & Creamery • Montville

In 1891, a small enclave of Russian-Jewish immigrant families established themselves as the New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society (NEHFES). With assistance from the Baron Maurice de Hirsch Fund, they built Connecticut's first rural synagogue and a steam-driven creamery in Montville. The community thrived well into the 1930s, leaving a legacy cared for by a large descendant population. The site is listed in the National Register and is a designated State Archaeological Preserve. In 2022, the property was put into the long-term care of The Archaeological Conservancy, and SHPO has since provided funding through several grant programs.

Prince Mortimer Plaza • Middletown

As part of environmental compliance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act, mitigation funding is being allocated to interpretive space at the site of the home of Prince Mortimer, a formerly enslaved individual whose struggle for freedom was recognized on the Connecticut Freedom Trail. The property, in the Main Street National Register Historic District, is undergoing revitalization, and the owner hopes to create a public plaza dedicated to Prince.

SECTION XI

Looking for More Information

A working group on historic preservation was created by Connecticut Special Act 21-13. The Working Group Regarding the Protection and Preservation of Historic Properties held its first meeting on Tuesday, August 31st, and concluded its work on February 1, 2022. Its 13 members included history organizations, economic resource agencies, and historic preservation practitioners. In the report of recommendations to the legislature, it was recommended that a historic preservation toolkit should be developed and shared with the public. Funding was appropriated to develop a website that identified resources, situational guidance, contact information, links, and best practices for the identification, evaluation, and preservation of Connecticut's historic places. The website was developed with significant outreach, and the results can be accessed using the QR code.



QR code to
preservationct.org/preservation-toolkit

preservationct.org/preservation-toolkit

In addition to the topics emphasized below, the toolkit contains specific information for: Concerned Citizens, Private Historic Property Owners, People Interested in Preservation, Prospective Historic Property Buyer/Seller, Municipal Officials, Non-profit Groups, Design Professionals, and Builders and Developers.

Historic Preservation Legislation is one of the strongest tools available to protect and support significant places.

State & local laws: preservationct.org/preservation-toolkit/preservation-laws-state ·
Federal laws: [/preservation-laws-national](https://preservationct.org/preservation-laws-national)

Reach out to a preservation partner to become more engaged with historic preservation activities in your community or statewide.

In-state partners: preservationct.org/preservation-toolkit/who · National partners: [/who-nationally](https://preservationct.org/preservation-toolkit/who-nationally)

Certified Local Governments have a special relationship with the National Park Service to help carry out the federal government's historic preservation goals.

Program info: portal.ct.gov/DECD · Find your town: preservationct.org/clg-communities

Environmental threats have emerged as a primary concern during the past decade and were repeatedly raised during outreach for the plan.

preservationct.org/preservation-toolkit/climate-change-hp

Dispelling preservation myths. There is a lot of misinformation about what historic preservation is and its impacts.

preservationct.org/preservation-toolkit/dispelling-preservation-myths

SECTION XII

Measuring Success

Self-Assessment

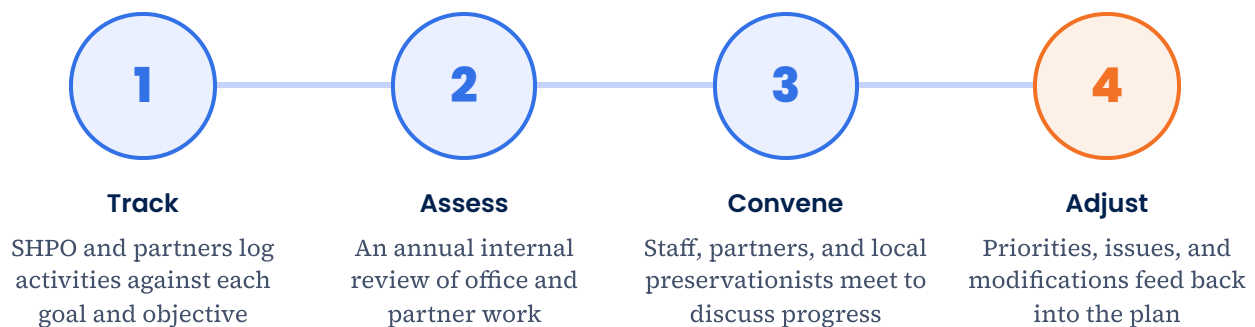
SHPO will develop an internal review program and will conduct an annual assessment of office and partner activities and which plan goal(s) and objective(s) they apply to and help to advance.

This plan is not static. SHPO will measure progress through regular tracking and annual assessments. SHPO will lead and support activities related to each goal and adjust objectives as needed. At 5 years, SHPO will produce a mid-point account of accomplishments and ongoing work.

Partner Participation

SHPO will organize opportunities for annual gatherings for staff, partners, and local preservationists to discuss progress and consider adjustments to the plan and its goals. This will make SHPO's work more transparent and help identify priorities, issues, and potential modifications. SHPO will also create and maintain a simple tracking system that partners and stakeholders can access via a QR code to report on their activities for the purposes of tracking and reporting.

THE ANNUAL REVIEW CYCLE



Every resident, municipality, and partner has a role to play.

We invite all of Connecticut to join in safeguarding and activating these treasures for the needs of today and the generations of tomorrow.

Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office

Department of Economic and Community Development
ct.gov/historic-preservation



