

## CASE STUDY: CULTURAL RESOURCES

# Historic Resource Resiliency Planning in Connecticut

**Lead Agency:** Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office

**Consultants/Partners:** R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.; Dewberry; Milone & MacBroom;

**Funding:** National Park Service, Emergency Supplemental Historic Restoration Fund (Hurricane Sandy grant)

**Report:** “Historic Resource Resiliency Planning in Connecticut”

### Project Overview:

As part of the State Historic Preservation Office’s Hurricane Sandy program, funded by a grant from the National Park Service, the CT State Historic Preservation Office worked with R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., Dewberry, and Milone & MacBroom on a climate vulnerability study of historic resources in Fairfield and New Haven Counties. The SHPO’s team of planning and engineering consultants analyzed plans in 91 towns; held charrettes with five regional Councils of Government; and met with planners and local stakeholders in 28 direct-shoreline towns. Upon completion of the project, SHPO will provide towns with technical assistance packages that includes maps and data on vulnerable historic resources; individually tailored reports on preservation planning for resiliency; and a best practices guide for planners. While this project had a significant focus on sea level rise as the project area was coastal counties, the report noted significant threats from the increased number, severity, and frequency of storm events with the potential to result in substantial damage to and/or loss of historic properties as well as other climate-induced environmental changes: “increased temperatures resulting in increased thermal movement; changes in expansion and contraction rates associated with altered seasonal cycles; and invasive species, including vegetation, insects, biological, and microbiological agents, that are anticipated to become more common and to pose increasing threats through infestation or decay.”



*Sloane Museum credit: CT DECD*

### How Project Contributes to Rural Resiliency:

Historic sites and other cultural resources contribute greatly to the community character of a community. Protecting these vulnerable assets are integral to protecting and encouraging that character.

### Suggestions for towns and/or COGs to assist in this type of project:

While not available yet, CT SHPO intends to develop its resiliency efforts as noted in the [draft Shared Stewardship: Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office’s 2018-2023 Strategic Plan](#). There will be additional resources on the SHPO website and staff will be working with municipalities and local preservation organizations to enhance resiliency.

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