



Conference on New England Archaeology

NEWSLETTER VOL. 37

38th Annual Meeting at Storrs, CT

May 12, 2018 / 9am - 5pm

The Archaeology of New England Farmsteads

This year's meeting will focus on excavations at farmsteads throughout New England, focusing primarily on sites from Connecticut and Massachusetts. These seven papers will discuss various aspects of vernacular life in the 17th and 18th centuries and integrate them into larger regional contexts. Researchers employed a range of data collection methods, including remote sensing and LiDAR, and position their results through diverse viewpoints. Farmsteads discussed include those owned by European descendants and Native American farmsteads of the Eastern Pequot community.

A selection of regional posters will also be displayed.

Registration and memberships dues are payable online or at the door.

\$20 for regular membership / \$15 for students

CONTENTS

2018 Meeting Schedule.....	Page 3
Presentation Abstracts.....	Page 4
Announcements.....	Page 8

2017-2018 CNEA STEERING COMMITTEE

SCOTT DILLON – scott.dillon@vermont.gov

JAIME DONTA – jaime.donta@powereng.com

JOHN KELLY – jkelly@palinc.com

VICTOR MASTONE – victor.mastone@state.ma.us

BERT PELLETIER

MANDY RANSLOW, 2019 Chair – mandy.ranslow@ct.gov

KIMBERLY SMITH, 2018 Chair – ksmith@graypape.com

MICHAEL VOLMAR, Webmaster – mvolmar@fruitlands.org

JESSICA WATSON, Newsletter Editor & Treasurer – jewatson@albany.edu

Many thanks are given to the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History for hosting the 2018 CNEA meeting. We also thank POWER Engineers Consulting, Gray and Pape Heritage Management, and the New York State Museum for production assistance.

VISIT: cnea-web.org

CONTACT: cneamembership@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

- 9:00 *Registration and coffee*
- 9:30 *Introductory Remarks* — Kimberly Smith
- 9:35 *Moment of Silence* in honor of Mike Roberts
- 9:40 Kimberly Smith
 A Landscape Approach to Identifying and Assessing Historical Farmsteads
- 10:10 Sarah P. Sportman, Ross K. Harper, and Mary Guillette Harper
 The Wolfpit Historic Archaeological District, Waterford, Connecticut
- 10:50 John M. Kelly and Kristen Heitert
 The Edgerton Farmstead: An Eighteenth-Century Farmstead at Susquetonscut Brook in Franklin, Connecticut
- 11:20 *Discussion and Questions*
- 11:40 *Poster Session*
- 12:20 *Lunch (on your own)*
- 2:00 *Business Meeting*
- 2:30 Stephen W. Silliman
 Making Reservations: Pequot Farmsteads and Community Persistence in Connecticut
- 3:00 Jaime Donta and F. Timothy Barker
 The Anthony Farmstead Site: Identity and Politics in the Rural Periphery
- 3:30 Brian Jones
 The Hollister Site: A 17th Century Frontier Farmstead on the Connecticut River
- 4:00 Cathy Labadia and Jenny Scofield
 Is it Important?: evaluating common resource types
- 4:30 *Discussion and Questions*

The Anthony Farmstead Site: Identity and Politics in the Rural Periphery

Jaime Donta and F. Timothy Barker

Power Engineers Consulting

Excavations at the Anthony Farmstead site in Somerset, Massachusetts, have yielded a wide range of eighteenth and nineteenth century domestic and agricultural materials. Extensive documentary research into the history of the property and the neighborhood has provided important supporting evidence about the identities of the farm's residents, helped shed light on the evolution of the farmstead throughout its use life, and placed the households into their larger regional contexts. Late colonial and early federal period political objects recovered speak particularly to the residents' involvement in the world outside of the parcel's boundaries.

The Hollister Site: A 17th Century Frontier Farmstead on the Connecticut River

Brian Jones

Office of State Archaeology and Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut

Recent remote sensing surveys and excavation at the Hollister Site have revealed a large 17th century farmstead on the east shore of the Connecticut River. Data from the site and associated historical documents indicate that despite its distance from the core Wethersfield settlement of which it was a part, it was an industrious mixed agricultural and pastoral complex aimed at surplus production. Likely first purchased by John Hollister to generate capital through the sale of farm products, by 1651 it had become a lucrative tenant farm. In 1667 it passed to Hollister's eldest son who used it to effectively establish a prosperous economic base for the success of his own children.

The Edgerton Farmstead: An Eighteenth-Century Farmstead at Susquetonscut Brook in Franklin, Connecticut

John M. Kelly and Kristen Heitert

PAL, Inc.

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. recently completed excavations at the multicomponent Susquetonscut Brook 11 Site in Franklin, Connecticut. The site contained a substantial eighteenth-century residential component that archival evidence indicated was associated with yeoman farmer Elisha Edgerton and his family from 1744 to the turn of the nineteenth century. The Edgerton farmstead, located in what was formerly the West Farms section of Norwich, illustrates how properties evolved during the eighteenth century as they were subdivided by successive generations. It also provides data on Elisha Edgerton's consumption practices and how they alternately masked and underscored his family's comparative wealth and social standing in the West Farms community. When compared to other contemporaneous farmstead sites in southeastern Connecticut, the site demonstrates the Edgertons' paradoxical adoption of both conservative consumer practices regarding their material goods and a "modern" architectural style and visually distinctive elements for their home.

Is it Important?: evaluating common resource types

Cathy Labadia and Jenny Scofield

Connecticut State Archaeologist

The National Register Coordinator and Staff Archaeologist from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office will give a joint presentation about assessing the significance of widespread types of archaeological sites, in particular the ubiquitous assemblages associated with farmsteads. A brief discussion of the framework for evaluating a cultural resource and applying the national register criteria will be followed with how architectural historians treat common building types. The principles of assessing vernacular architecture will then serve as a model for how common types of archaeological deposits can be evaluated. This is not intended to be a prescriptive approach, but a conversation about the importance of context and suggestions for considering these common, but fragile, resource types.

Making Reservations: Pequot Farmsteads and Community Persistence in Connecticut

Stephen W. Silliman

University of Massachusetts Boston

The study of New England farmsteads has not traditionally included those lived on and maintained by Native Americans, but decades of archaeological and archival work on Pequot and Mohegan reservation farmsteads in Connecticut have revealed the material, spatial, and cultural ways that Native Americans have persisted throughout centuries of colonialism in southern New England. This talk summarizes some of the archaeological excavation, survey, and mapping work on the Eastern Pequot 225-acre reservation established in 1683 in southeastern Connecticut and occupied to this day. This research, conducted collaboratively between the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation and the University of Massachusetts Boston since 2003, provides insights into the spatial organization, use of stone features, architecture, diet, economics, and material culture practices at several Pequot farmsteads between the mid-18th to mid-19th centuries. Some aspects parallel those of neighboring Anglo settlers, while others accentuate the uniquely-situated experiences of struggle and persistence of the Eastern Pequot community.

A Landscape Approach to Identifying and Assessing Historical Farmsteads

Kimberly Smith

Gray and Pape Heritage Management

Between 1600 and 1900 the majority of the United States population was involved in farming activities. As a result, farmsteads represent the most pervasive archaeological site type throughout the country and can be difficult to ascertain their research value and assess for the NRHP eligibility. Using a landscape archaeological approach to identify research questions can aid in assessing these ubiquitous site types. While this is certainly not a new methodology, as Mary Beaudry presented this research method as early as the late 1990s, this paper will rehash approaches to ease accessibility according to their presence within the archaeological landscape.

The Wolfpit Historic Archaeological District, Waterford, Connecticut

Sarah P. Sportman, Ross K. Harper, & Mary Guillette Harper

AHS, Inc.

The Wolfpit Historic Archaeological District (WPHAD) was identified by PAST, Inc. in a 1998 town-wide survey of Waterford, Connecticut. Wolfpit was an 18th- and 19th-century settlement arranged around the abandoned Pember Road. The remains of the community include foundations, mill remains, stone walls, animal pens, vestigial roads and paths, causeways, charcoal mounds, and bark mills. While the settlement was primarily agricultural, the residents supplemented their incomes through the extraction, processing, and sale of forest-related products. The community had ready access to the headwaters of the Niantic River, from which charcoal and other commodities could be transported to local and global markets. The WPHAD was located within the preferred alignment for the now-dormant Route 11 extension project. As part of the effort to officially close-out the project and aid in future planning and development, AHS was contracted to carry out extensive documentary research on the community.

To reconstruct the history and culture history of the WPHAD, AHS took an interdisciplinary approach that utilized a wide variety of primary and secondary written sources, maps, informant interviews, and archaeology. AHS's research included an examination of an exhaustive collection of primary and secondary documentary sources, historic maps, LiDAR, and past archaeological investigations in the project area vicinity to identify the residents of the Wolfpit District and their economic activities and social relationships, to provide a context for assessing the function and significance of the previously identified archaeological resources.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

CNEA will be electing three new steering committee members during the **Business Meeting**. If you are interested in serving on the steering committee or would like to nominate someone, submit a nomination at the registration desk.

CALL FOR CURRENT RESEARCH

Professional research abstracts are included in each year's newsletter. If you have current research you would like to share, please email a brief abstract and any images to **cnea.membership@gmail.com** to be added to next year's newsletter. Multiple inclusions are welcome. These will be available online at **cnea-web.org**.