

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Siege and Battle of Saybrook Fort, Battlefields of the Pequot War Project

What is the Siege and Battle of Saybrook Fort project? The "Siege and Battle of Saybrook Fort" project is part of the larger *Battlefields of the Pequot War* research initiative that started over a decade ago by researchers from the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center (MPMRC). This latest project came into fruition when the Old Saybrook Historical Society received funding from the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program to educate and create opportunity to preserve the Siege and Battle of Saybrook Fort and associated sites that is currently at risk from development and lack of public knowledge. Findings from the project and this survey will be used to inform community plans for education and interpretation, preservation and management to protect historic sites and best serve the needs of the community.

What is the survey about? We would like to invite Saybrook residents to participate in a five minute survey (see the attached page). Questions address project interest and barriers, and identifies community stakeholders in preserving sites of the Pequot War. Please accept our reassurance that the information you provide is confidential, and no names or contact information will be released to the public.

Why is the survey important? The short-term goals of the community assessment are to identify community needs that can be interwoven into historical preservation plans, and to assess project impacts and barriers to community involvement. Communities who actively participate in learning about their local history through community conversations, awareness, public programs and research create stronger communities and the potential for preserving historically significant sites. We want to know how we can make this project more accessible to *you* and how the community envisions themselves as advocates for historical preservation. To do so, we need your help to identify stakeholders and partners to contribute to the *Battlefields of the Pequot War* Project, and to speak on community needs to devise appropriate long-term preservation and community-based plans. Surveys will be distributed in the Fall 2018-Spring 2019, and a report containing recommendations for a community plan will be distributed via email and on our website at pequotwar.org.

Where do I return the form? Please return the form to Ashley Bissonnette at 110 Pequot Trail, PO Box 3180, Mashantucket, CT 06338 or scan, or take a picture with your phone and email to abissonnette@mpnt.org.

Thank you for your participation!

Please return form to Ashley Bissonnette at abissonnette@mptn.org or by mail to 110 Pequot Trail, PO Box 3180, Mashantucket, CT 06338

Community Assessment Survey

Information is voluntary and confidential

TOWN HISTORY

1. Are you familiar with your town's history? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Have you utilized any of these places to learn about your town's history? Please check all that apply.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Old Saybrook Historical Society | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> Acton Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local historian | <input type="checkbox"/> Public schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Websites |

3. Are there any barriers that prevent you from learning about your town's history? Please check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual (text that is hard to understand) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sensory (hard to see, hear, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural (language, beliefs, uncommon cultural reference) | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational (timing, place, date of events) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical (wheel inaccessible etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial (parking, entrance fee, guides, etc.) |

4. What is your highest level of education?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some high school | <input type="checkbox"/> High school diploma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Some college | <input type="checkbox"/> College 4+ years |

THE PROJECT

5. Have you heard of the *Siege and Battles of Saybrook Fort* project prior to this survey? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6. Would you and/or anyone you know like to be involved in the preservation process of the *Siege and Battles of Saybrook Fort*? If yes, please provide your name and/or others' with contact information _____

7. Would you like to see the Saybrook Fort and associated battlefields sites in your town listed in in the National Registrar of Historic Places? ☐ Yes ☐ No

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY

8. What do you believe to be your town's greatest asset(s)? Please rank in order of importance from "1" to "6."

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Connecticut River recreation: fishing, walking trails, bike trails, boating, Harvey's Beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Education: Town schools, historical society, Acton Public Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach: Town events and tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Public Facilities: Medical, fire department, police department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping | <input type="checkbox"/> The community |

9. What would you like to see changed in your community with respect to historic preservation?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More/adequate signage | <input type="checkbox"/> Public events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of historical sites and buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community involvement/awareness among stakeholders | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of historic sites for future generations |

10. Do you believe your needs are heard by town representatives? ☐ Yes ☐ No

11. Would you like to receive a copy of this survey's results and project updates? If yes, please provide your email address _____

Please feel free to use the backside for further comments and information you would like to share.
For more information, please contact Ashley Bissonnette at abissonnette@mptn.org or 1-860-396-6803
**criteria adopted from the English Heritage, The Heritage Council, 2017*

The National Registrar of Historic Places

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- Administered by the National Park Service (NPS), the National Register is a federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and/or objects significant to both American history and the local community. Bringing community awareness to these sites and cultural resources assists in more easily safeguard these places for future generations.

How is the property listed in the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- Documentation and forms are submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHIPO) for review which has the option to reject the property, list the property on the State Historical Register only, or send the application to the NPS for further review.
- The SHIPO notifies all affected landowners and local governments and solicits public comment, and if the majority of landowners refuse, then the property cannot be listed.

Who is involved in the process of listing properties to the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- Listing sites and districts to the National Registrar of Historic Places is a community effort between the landowners, and local, state and federal governments.

Can private property be taken or impacted by the National Park Service?

- No, private property cannot be taken by any means.

Are there any restrictions to private lands or land use if the property is listed to the National Registrar of Historic Places?

- None. If the property is modified or the integrity is negatively affected the property is simply no longer part of the battlefield. There are no restrictions or requirements placed on landholders.

Are there insurance regulation implications?

- None. No restrictions or requirements are placed on the landowner, and the landowner may do as they wish within the framework of local laws and ordinances.

What are the benefits?

- Community awareness of important local cultural resources
- Federal preservation grants for planning and rehabilitation
- Federal investment tax credits
- Preservation easements to nonprofit organizations

Adopted from the National Park Service, for a full list of questions and answers, please visit their website at: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/faq.htm>