
Nathan Hale Schoolhouse
East Haddam, CT


War Office
Lebanon, CT


Nathan Hale Schoolhouse
New London, CT

REAL PROPERTY REPORT

September 17, 2024

Most of this Summer we have been concentrating on restoration of the grounds at the War Office and at the Nathan Hale schoolhouse in East Haddam. It has been a challenging time for all the weather conditions and the material supply chain.

The War Office has the most needs with the July 2025 Congress tour just around the corner. In order to get started I had to attend several meetings with Lebanon town officials to review our plans and to abide by their historical standards. That process went smoothly, but consumed many hours. I would like to point out that they were very receptive and assisted me getting through this part of the process. At this point in time, the entry sidewalk is 99% complete, the building interpretive panel is attached, the new well housing is ready for delivery along with the shed to house the portable toilet. The foundation for the Gov. Trumbull memorial bench has been poured along with the footing for the new street sign. I'm waiting on a progress report on said sign. Our biggest set back is the arrival of the Geo-Grid system for the service driveway to the shed. Last year we had the perimeter along the stone wall cleaned up. I am totally surprised that it has grown back with a vengeance.

Gen. Spencer and his wife Hannah were reinterred on the property of the Nathan Hale Memorial Park in 1904. For many years they rested in peace. Within the last few decades their grave stones have fallen victim to the weather and vandalism. James Leatherbee, President, Riverview Cemetery Association, has graciously donated the funding to restore the damaged grave stones and to replicate for placement back at the park. This means that there are two sets of markers. The work was performed by Randall Nelson, President/Owner, Nelson Architectural Restorations. You would think that this would be a nice problem, guess again. Randall needs to have the restored markers removed from his shop, space and damage issues. James, Randall and myself have been able to find a permanent home at the East Haddam Historical Society. The Society through, Pam Champlin, Director, has agreed to a display as soon as they create space, which will take time. In the mean time James has made arrangements to have the markers removed from Randall's shop to a storage area under the control of the Town of East Haddam. Another item concerning the new grave stones on the property is protecting

them from vandalism with period style fencing. James and myself are working together to find a company that will supply and install. We are examining the possibility of adding the new grave stones to our insurance policy.

This Spring we brought on board, Ryan Knaggs a resident of East Haddam, to do the grass trimming, along with him and mowing done by St. Stephen's Church it's looking very nice.

We have had two CTSSAR members volunteer as docents Dave Jones at the War Office and Scott Collins at Nathan Hale in New London. The Nathan Hale Memorial Chapter DAR has done their great work by volunteering in East Haddam.

As we move forward with these projects, I would like to thank all involved. If anyone would be interested in learning more on our direction, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted:
David Packard
CTSSAR Real Property Steward