

## The Persistent Pull to This Place: The Story of Bridgeport's Mary & Eliza Freeman Houses



Proposed Restored Facades of Mary Freeman (left) and Eliza Freeman Houses

**Zoom Presentation by: Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.**  
**Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

### Guest Speakers:

**Maisa L. Tisdale**  
President and CEO

Mary & Eliza Freeman Center for History and Community



**Dr. Sarah Sportman**

Connecticut State Archaeologist



*Maisa will focus on sisters Mary and Eliza Freeman, two accomplished black women in antebellum Connecticut. The Freeman houses are the only surviving structures from Little Liberia, a seafaring community of free people of color located on the outskirts of Bridgeport proper during the 1800s. The story of the Freeman sisters and Little Liberia is one of perseverance and success for people of color during an era when over one million individuals were enslaved within the United States. Maisa will also discuss the racial inequities the community faced post-civil war that ultimately contributed to the disappearance of Little Liberia.*

*Immediately following Maisa's presentation, Sarah will discuss the current status of OSA archaeological investigations at the site of the Freeman homes. OSA, along with FOSA volunteers, have worked at the site on several occasions since 2012, performing ground-penetrating radar (GPR) surveys, exploratory test pitting, and excavations focused on determining the original architectural footprints of the houses and exploring anomalies noted during the GPR survey.*

**Immediately after the presentation, FOSA will hold its 2022 Annual Meeting.**

**Please register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAuf-2spzsvHdYyeVXyeuiyXT7Ok4IMxV08>

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.**