



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678
TTY 401-222-3700

Fax 401-222-2968
www.preservation.ri.gov

MINUTES
RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
January 13, 2016

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Michael Abbott, AIA
Ms. Morgan Devlin
Mr. Mohamad Farzan, AIA
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Pieter N. Roos
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Clark Schoettle

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Joanna Doherty, Principal Architectural Historian
Ms. Michaela Jergensen, Senior Reviewer RIDOT Projects
Ms. Katherine Jurczyk, Senior Grants Coordinator
Mr. Glenn Modica, Senior Project Review Coordinator
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Principal Special Projects Coordinator
Ms. Elizabeth Warburton, Senior Architectural Historian

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Al Cocce, AIA, representing John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Ms. Janet Coit, Director DEM
Mr. Darin Early, COO, Commerce RI
Ms. Caitlin Greeley, representing the Associate Director of the Division of Planning
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom, Chairman
Ms. Lisa Lee representing Janet Coit, Director DEM
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Ms. Ruth Taylor

GUESTS

Mr. Richard Youngken, National Register Consultant

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 A.M., Dr. Onorato presiding in place of Chairman Hoogeboom who was absent.

2. Minutes of December 9, 2015

On a motion by Ms. Devlin, seconded by Mr. Farzan, the Commission unanimously VOTED to approve the Minutes of December 9, 2015.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sanderson distributed the 2016 RIHPHC Meeting Schedule.

Commissioner Devlin announced that she is resigning from the Commission in order to have more time to pursue a Master's Degree in Public Administration at Roger Williams University. She will continue to work at Preserve Rhode Island. Ms. Devlin expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Commission from 2013 to 2016.

Mr. Schoettle reported on the Providence Downtown District Review of proposed demolition of the early 1960s Fogarty Building to make way for construction of a new hotel. The case highlighted evaluation of mid-20th-century architecture, focusing on the concrete Fogarty Building in particular. The PDDRC voted unanimously to allow the demolition due to the particular circumstances of the building's condition, previous development efforts, and the city ordinance's consideration for worthwhile new development projects. RIHPHC was not involved in this review, but RIHPHC should develop a historical context for evaluating the significance of mid-20th-century architecture.

Ms. Zurier reported on the State Preservation Grants Announcement program held on January 11, 2016 at the Odeum Theatre in East Greenwich. RIHPHC and the RI State Council on the Arts made the announcement jointly for 45 grant projects representing approximately \$4 million in bond funds from the 2015 Cultural and Creative Economy Bond Issue.

Ms. Zurier also reported on planning for the 2016 Statewide Historic Preservation that will be held in Wickford Village on Saturday April 30. The theme of the conference is "Building & Preserving South County."

4. National Register of Historic Places

Final Consideration: Margin Street Historic District, Westerly

Ms. Doherty presented information about the Margin Street Historic District, Westerly. The nomination was prepared by Richard Youngken. The Perry Homestead occupies approximately 8.5 acres at the corner of Margin and Beach streets in the southern end of downtown Westerly, Rhode Island. The district is located on the eastern shore of the Pawcatuck River, which divides Westerly from Stonington, Connecticut. It includes a total of six adjacent houses, five of which were built for members of the Perry family (the sixth served as a caretaker's residence). The original construction dates of the houses range from ca. 1700 to 1900; three were renovated in the Colonial Revival and/or Classical Revival styles in the early twentieth century, giving the district an architecturally cohesive character. In addition, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, gardens and landscape structures – attributed to prominent landscape architects Warren Manning and Arthur Shurcliff – were constructed, linking the individual properties and creating a unified Perry family compound. Overall, the Perry Homestead Historic District, as well as its individual components, retains a high level of integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The district includes six residences with construction dates ranging from ca. 1700 to 1900, representing the Colonial period, the Greek Revival style and the Shingle Style. Early-20th century alterations to the houses at 2 Margin Street and 4 Margin Street are significant in their own right, and reflect the popularity of the Colonial Revival and Classical Revival styles during that period, while the restoration of the Lewis-Card-Perry House at 12 Margin Street, completed by architect Norman M. Isham, speaks to the early-20th-century approach to historic preservation. The district also includes notable landscape features dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which serve to join the properties in a unified composition. These include specimen tree plantings attributed to Warren H. Manning and three enclosed garden rooms attributed to Arthur A. Shurcliff. The period of significance, ca. 1700 – 1940, encompasses the construction of and any subsequent renovations to all six residences in the district, and the extant outbuildings, as well as the development of the designed landscape features.

The Perry Homestead Historic District is an excellent, intact example of a late-19th/early-20th-century family compound with substantial homes arrayed within a unifying, designed landscape. These family compounds employed many of the same design elements evident in the planned suburban communities of the period; indeed, they were in some ways planned communities at a more intimate, family scale. Other prominent New England families established similar enclaves, often employing prominent architects and landscape designers, but few survive with integrity equal to the Perry Homestead.

The Perry family has contributed significantly to the historical development of Westerly, through business and philanthropy, since the arrival of Thomas Perry (1765-1826) in Westerly at the beginning of the 19th century. A Quaker and a school-master from nearby Charlestown, Thomas moved to Westerly to work at the newly-established Washington Bank, becoming the “cashier” (equivalent to chief executive officer in modern terminology) in 1805. The financial institution is one of the oldest chartered banks in the United States and the oldest community bank in the nation. Five generations of Perry family members followed Thomas Perry in Westerly’s banking industry, working at either the Washington Bank, the Westerly Savings Bank or the Washington Trust Company, formed when the two other banks merged in 1904.

Prominent members of the Society of Friends, the Perry family has a legacy of social activism and philanthropy in Westerly, as well. Charles Perry, Sr., was an abolitionist who hosted anti-slavery speakers, including Frederick Douglass, at the Charles Perry House (4 Margin Street), and is said to have harbored runaway slaves, making their way on the Underground Railroad, on his property in Charlestown. With his cousin Ethan Foster, he also successfully lobbied President Lincoln to free four Quaker men who had been jailed for refusing the Union draft as a matter of conscience.

Approximately 15 acres of Thomas Perry’s original 100-acre Westerly farmstead was donated to the Westerly Hospital by his grandson, Charles Perry, Jr. Charles, Jr. was also involved in philanthropic activities at the Westerly Library and Wilcox Park (both listed on the National Register). His son, Arthur Perry, also served on the Westerly Library Association. Members of the Perry family were involved in establishing the local YMCA and the Westerly Land Trust.

Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Schoettle, seconded by Mr. Farzan, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

5. Other Business: There was no other business.
6. Next regular meeting date: Wednesday February 10, 2016 at 9:30 AM.
8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Minutes recorded by,



Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS****HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION**

Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678
TTY 401-222-3700**Fax 401-222-2968**
www.preservation.ri.gov**2016 RIHPHC COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

The regularly scheduled meetings of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission for 2016 will be on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:30 AM at the Old State House, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI. The agenda will be posted one week before the meeting. Meetings are open to the public, and the location is accessible. Anyone who requires the assistance of an interpreter or has other special needs should contact the Commission at least 48 hours in advance so they may be accommodated.

January 13, 2016**July 13, 2016****February 10, 2016****August 10, 2016****March 9, 2016****September 14, 2016****April 13, 2016****October 12, 2016****May 11, 2016****November 9, 2016****June 8, 2016****December 14, 2016**

**April 30, 2016: Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference
to be held in No. Kingstown & Exeter, RI.**