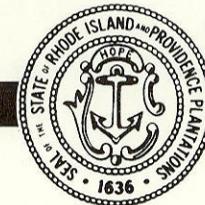


RHODE ISLAND  
STATE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
AWARDS



1993

*Photographs: Marion Fry by Susan Dittelman; Margery Matthews by Observer Publications; Irving B. Haynes by Martha L. Werenfels; William H. Jordy by John Forasté; Crescent Park Carousel by the Carousel Park Commission; Providence Preservation Society's Children's Heritage Education Program by the Providence Preservation Society; all other photographs by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.*



**RHODE ISLAND  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION**

## Introduction

1993 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. To commemorate this special year, the Commission is initiating an annual State Historic Preservation Awards program, which will honor individuals, organizations and projects for their contributions to the preservation of Rhode Island's historic resources.

The Commission has named two awards in tribute to individuals who exemplify Rhode Islanders' commitment to historic preservation. They are the highest honors which the Commission will bestow.

For twenty-five years Antoinette F. Downing has made the volunteer position of Commission Chairman her full-time occupation. She has contributed her time, her knowledge and, most importantly, her vision to shape Rhode Island's state program. At the same time, she has generously lent her counsel and support to numerous organizations and projects throughout the state. In her honor, the Commission has created the Antoinette F. Downing Award for Volunteer Service to Preservation.

Frederick C. Williamson was appointed State Historic Preservation Officer in 1969. Today, he is the dean of SHPOs, having served longer than any other in the nation. His professional expertise in government relations and his skill in promoting effective state and local government partnerships have been invaluable in advancing historic preservation in Rhode Island. In his honor, the Commission has established the Frederick C. Williamson Award for Professional Leadership.

We salute all the recipients of the 1993 Rhode Island State Historic Preservation Awards.

## Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award



Marion L. Fry

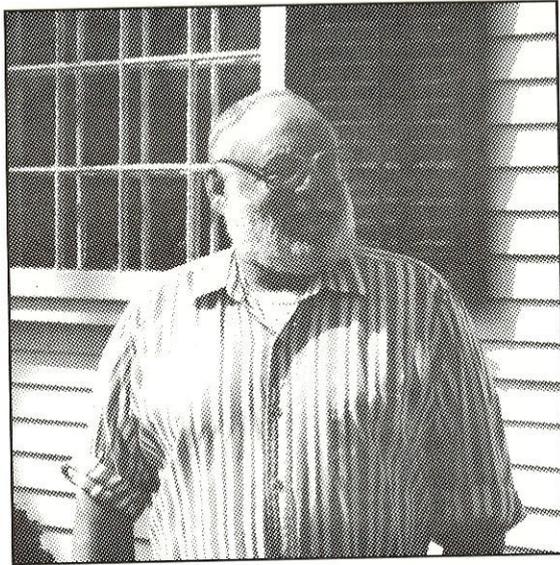
Born in East Greenwich and raised on land which her family has owned since the town's founding, Marion Fry has a deep sense of the community's history and a commitment to protecting historic resources. By personal example and public advocacy, she has helped the residents of East Greenwich to appreciate and preserve their community's architectural heritage.

Marion and her sister live in and care for the Fry Homestead, built in the 18th century. She has also restored another early East Greenwich home and stepped in to rescue and move a 19th-century residence threatened by highway construction. Her concern for preserving the historic character of East Greenwich for the future includes open land; she and her sister have contributed 47 acres of woodland to the East Greenwich Land Trust.

Marion served as a member of the East Greenwich Town Council from 1976 to 1986, and was President from 1980 to 1982. While on the Town Council she was instrumental in establishing local historic district zoning, and she serves on the East Greenwich Historic District Commission. She has also been President of the East Greenwich Preservation Society, President of the Roger Williams Family Association, and is active in several other preservation and historical societies.

Marion's work extends to the University of Rhode Island, where she was a professor of home economics. When URI restored the Oliver Watson House, she oversaw installation of the house's period furnishings.

### *Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award*



Carlton C. Brownell

Carlton Brownell, author, curator, restoration manager and educator, personifies preservation in Little Compton. His enthusiasm and commitment have saved buildings and inspired others to do so.

Since 1955, Carlton has served as Curator and Executive Director of the Little Compton Historical Society. He directed the restoration of Wilbour House, the Society's headquarters, and the reconstruction of its 1725 Peaked School for the United States Bicentennial.

Carlton's interest in historical research led him to assist in the preparation of Benjamin Franklin Wilbour's monumental *Little Compton Families* (1967) and to edit and annotate *Notes on Little Compton* (1970), arranged from material collected by Wilbour. His original research on Little Compton buildings provided invaluable material for *Historic and Architectural Resources of Little Compton, Rhode Island*, published in 1990.

Carlton served as a committee member for the rebuilding of the United Congregational Church in 1974, and, as Chairman of the Buildings and Grounds Committee since 1978, has been closely involved with restoration of the 1875 Parish House, the 1840 Parsonage, and the beautiful stone walls and fences around the church. As a Director of the Tiverton Historical Society, he was responsible for restoration of the Chase-Cory House (ca. 1750), its corncrib and wash house at Tiverton Four Corners. He is also a charter member of Friends of Sakonnet Light.

### *Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award*



Margery I. Matthews

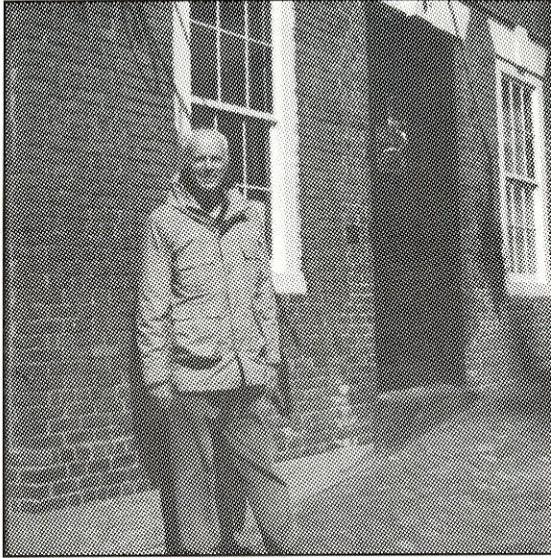
Author, genealogist and community leader, Margery Matthews is the voice of historic preservation in Foster. Her childhood was spent on the family dairy farm in Moosup Valley where she attended the one-room Moosup Valley School. After much moving about with the Marine Corps, she and her husband, Tom, returned home in 1963. Margery earned a masters degree in Library Science from URI and became the librarian at Ponaganset High School.

Her devotion to historical research led to publication of *Foster and the Patriot's Dream* (1976), *Churches of Foster, A History of Religious Life in Rural Rhode Island* (1978), and *Peleg's Last Word*, a documented account of Foster's haunted Ram Tail Mill. Her column for the Foster Preservation Society's newsletter has resulted in publication of *So I've Been Told* and *By My Kin*.

A lifelong interest in genealogy and Foster's cemeteries led Margery to record and preserve 134 of Foster's 140 graveyards. She also initiated historical tours for 4th graders at the Isaac Paine School. Her knowledge and research were invaluable in preparing the RIHPC's *Foster, Rhode Island* and enriched the National Register nomination for Moosup Valley.

From 1976 to 1978 Margery was the first woman Town Council President. She has also been President of the Tyler Library in Moosup Valley and serves on its Board. Recently Margery was a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the new comprehensive town plan.

## Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award



Irving B. Haynes

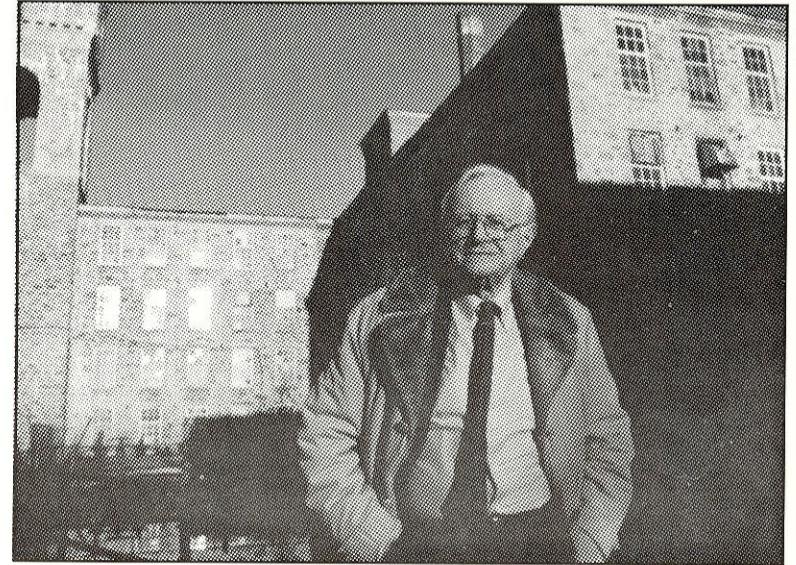
Architect, teacher and advocate, Irving Haynes is a major force in saving Rhode Island's architectural legacy for the future.

The sole proprietor of Irving Haynes and Associates, Architects, Irving has been responsible for the restoration of some of Rhode Island's most prominent historic landmarks. He restored the First Unitarian Church after it was seriously damaged by a 1966 fire, and in 1972, his firm completed the renovation of the 1810 Wilkinson Mill Building at the Slater Mill Historic Site in Pawtucket. During the 1980s, Irving Haynes and Associates rehabilitated Providence City Hall and the Arcade. In Newport, the firm completed an extensive restoration of Trinity Church, a National Historic Landmark, and has given the 1762 Brick Market new life as a museum of the city's history.

Since 1953, Irving has served on the faculty of the Rhode Island School of Design, sharing his knowledge of and devotion to preservation with new generations. In 1968, he became a charter member of the RIHPC.

Irving's restoration projects have been honored with awards from the Providence Preservation Society, the American Institute of Architects and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In 1982, in recognition of his contributions in architectural design and historic preservation, he was made a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the AIA's highest honor bestowed on an architect in private practice.

## Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award



William H. Jordy

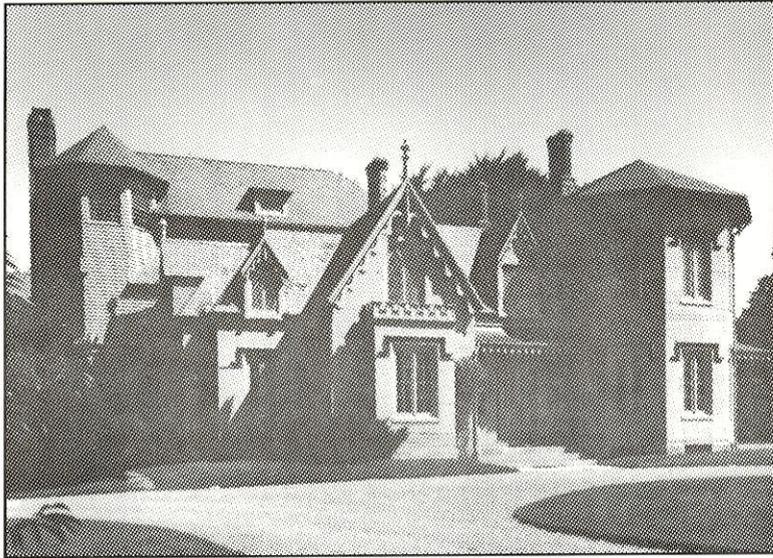
William H. Jordy's forty-five year career has merged first-rate scholarship and engaging writing with an enthusiastic teaching style which has inspired generations of students.

After receiving his PhD from Yale University in 1948, Jordy continued at Yale for seven years as an Assistant Professor of History of Art and American Studies. Since 1955, Jordy has served as professor of art history at Brown University.

Through his writings, Jordy has interpreted 19th and 20th century American architecture to a wide readership. His publications include *American Buildings and Their Architects, Volume III: Progressive and Academic Ideals at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* and *Volume IV: The Impact of European Modernism in the Mid-Twentieth Century*; *Buildings on Paper*, an exhibition of Rhode Island architectural drawings, and numerous articles and book reviews.

Jordy's work extends beyond the study of architecture to an active involvement in the preservation of early buildings. He was a charter member of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and is a member of the Commission's National Register Review Board. A former Providence Preservation Society trustee, he has served on the Society's Planning and Architectural Review Committee for more than fifteen years.

## Historic Preservation Award



### Preservation Society of Newport County

Through its visionary program of rescue, research, restoration, maintenance and interpretation, The Preservation Society of Newport County has enabled millions of visitors from around the world to experience some of America's most renowned architectural landmarks.

Soon after its formation in 1945, the society commissioned Antoinette Downing and Vincent Scully to write *The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island*, which provided a broad context for understanding the city's three-hundred-year legacy in wood, brick and stone. Using this study as a basis, the society undertook a more active role in preservation. In the late 1940s it saved Hunter House on Washington Street. Other restoration projects included Whitehorse Tavern and Vernon House. Beginning in 1948, it opened The Breakers, followed by acquisition of The Elms (1962), Marble House (1963), Chateau-sur-Mer (1969), Rosecliff (1971), Kingscote (1971) and Green Animals (1971).

The society complements its successful rescue and restoration efforts with a commitment to stewardship and interpretation. Its ongoing research into the architecture and decorative treatments of its house museums provides new insights which heighten the visitor's experience and guide the care of the properties.

The Preservation Society of Newport County is clearly the state's leader in the stewardship and interpretation of historic buildings.

## Historic Preservation Award



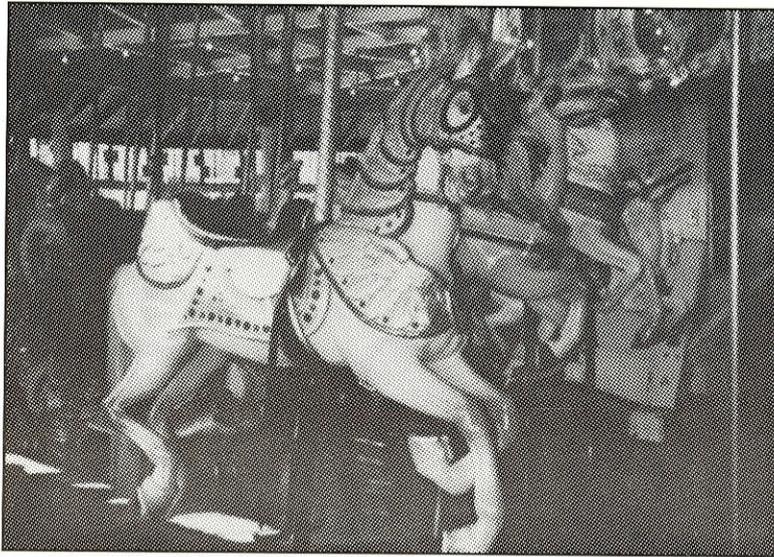
### Kenyon's Department Store

Kenyon's survival in relatively intact form as a late 19th and early 20th century department store is remarkable for a building type so often subject to disfiguring modernizations or demolition. Its survival is equally remarkable in an age when such small-town main street commercial enterprises continually go out of business in the face of competition from modern shopping centers and malls. Started as a dry-goods establishment in 1868, Kenyon's evolved into a department store and moved into its present building in 1891.

In addition, Kenyon's, through its long-standing, ongoing role in community life, has become a local treasure, a social as well as an architectural and historical landmark. The sense of continuity, stability and tradition that it has come to represent is a source of pride not only for the family that has operated the store for five generations, but also for many residents of Wakefield, many of whom have great affection for its old-fashioned quality.

Staffed by employees who have close friendships with many of the customers, the store functions as a social center as well as a commercial establishment. The very personal nature of the manner in which Kenyon's conducts business has given rise to innumerable nostalgic anecdotes which are an integral part of the town's collective consciousness. That the sense of feeling and association has survived in the face of massive suburbanization in South Kingstown is a testament to Kenyon's special status, and to the family that has guided its course.

## Historic Preservation Award



Crescent Park Carousel

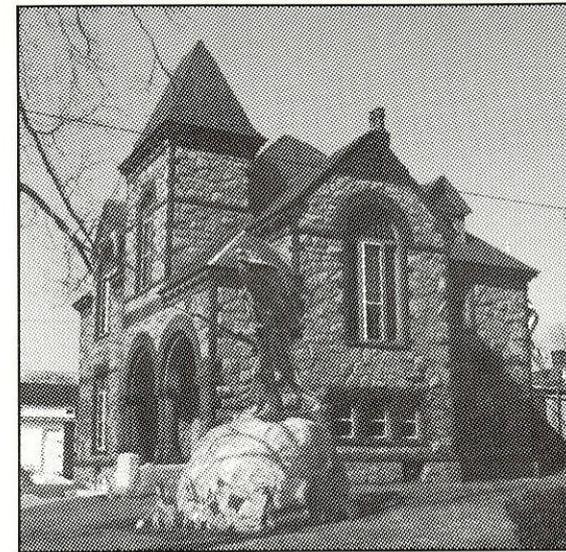
The 1895 Charles I.D. Looff Carousel, a National Historic Landmark, is America's finest example of the bejeweled "jumping horse" carousel. Its rescue and restoration is outstanding for the care, persistence, creativity and imagination shown by the citizens and city of East Providence.

After Crescent Park, once the premier amusement park of upper Narragansett Bay, closed in 1977, proposals to develop the site for housing appeared to doom the carousel. A group of concerned citizens, organized as "Save Our Carousel, Inc.," undertook a dynamic five-year effort to secure the carousel and 11.7 acres of park as city property. The Carousel Park Commission was created in 1983 to raise funds, oversee restoration and operation of the carousel, and create an urban waterfront park. In July of 1984, the "Best Ride in Town" reopened. Over 73,000 people came to ride in the first seven week season!

The imaginative campaign to raise restoration funding for the carousel combined private and corporate donations and proceeds from bake sales, concerts, raffles, posters and the "Save-A-Pony" program with bond issue funds, community development block grants, historic preservation funds, and open space monies.

The Carousel Park Commission is now implementing a Master Plan, drawn up in 1991, for the carousel and the Carousel Bayside Park. As East Providence prepares for the carousel's 100th birthday in 1995, "Let's go to Crescent Park!" has once again become a familiar cry.

## Historic Preservation Award



Burnside Memorial Hall

In a fine example of stewardship of an historic property, the Town of Bristol has completed a careful renovation of its landmark Burnside Memorial Hall, built in 1883.

The elaborate Richardsonian Romanesque building, designed by Stephen C. Earle, of Worcester and Boston, Massachusetts, was dedicated to the memory of General Ambrose Burnside, a former Bristol resident. It served as Bristol's town hall until 1969, when lack of space and inadequate fire-safety provisions led to the relocation of the majority of town offices to the adjacent remodeled town garage.

After evaluating Burnside Memorial Hall's condition and its potential for adaptive reuse, the town undertook rehabilitation of the hall, using Bristol Community Development Grant funds and a special grant from the Governor's Office of Housing, Energy and Intergovernmental Relations. The project, planned and implemented by architect Lombard John Pozzi, retained the building's historic character and conserved 95% of the original stained glass, ash woodwork and rare stenciling. At the same time, it equipped the hall to meet today's requirements for accessibility for the disabled and thereby ensured that the building could continue to serve in its original use as a center of civic activities.

Once more open for meetings and other town gatherings, Burnside Memorial Hall is a monument to responsible stewardship and considerate renovation.

## Historic Preservation Award



Rose Island Lighthouse

Dedication, perseverance, an appeal to public imagination and a search for innovative solutions describe the efforts to preserve Newport's 1869 Rose Island Lighthouse.

Deactivated by the Coast Guard in 1971, the lighthouse stood vacant until 1984. Concern that the island might be developed, coupled with the GSA's offer to donate the property to the City as a public site, stimulated the creation of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation. Because of the lighthouse and its unspoiled island setting, every Newport ecological and preservation group rallied to support the Foundation's Board of Directors.

In the years since its formation, the foundation has sponsored clambakes, sold memberships and secured funds from foundations and the federal Bicentennial Lighthouse fund to undertake a meticulous restoration of the lighthouse. The project has captured the imagination of architects, engineers, carpenters, plumbers, contractors, students and suppliers, all of whom have contributed services and materials. In fact, 60% of the estimated \$1 million project cost has been raised through in-kind donations.

A visit to the island is a lesson in conservation as well as historic preservation. To protect the ecology of the island, the group has combined solutions from the past with the newest technology to meet needs for water and power: a cistern collects water and the latest fluorescent bulbs conserve electricity.

## Historic Preservation Award



Brown Farm, Kingston Village

The restoration of two Victorian houses on the Brown Farm property at the entrance to the Kingston Village Historic District has turned a heartbreaking eyesore into an appropriate gateway to the village.

The houses, which are the only Victorian residences in the historic district, had stood vacant for many years. The mansard roof cottage had been boarded up in 1955, and the farmhouse in 1984. Due to the prolonged settlement of the estate, the buildings became badly deteriorated and the subject of much local concern.

In 1992, Wakefield Mill Properties acquired the properties and undertook a careful restoration of both buildings. Guided by early photographs, managing partner Bruce Thunberg and master carpenter John Selby rebuilt the houses from the inside out and restored the exteriors to their original appearance. Paint scrapings were used to determine appropriate paint colors for each building.

Their concern for the historic character of each building and their meticulous attention to detail produced a restoration worthy of the buildings' prominent position in Rhode Island's first local historic district.

## Historic Preservation Award



### Providence Preservation Society Children's Education Program

Recognizing that children link us to the future just as historic resources link us to the past, the Providence Preservation Society launched its Children's Education Program in 1985. This year, it will provide educational activities to more than 5,000 children.

The core program, developed for use by fourth-grade classes, includes a filmstrip, workbooks and walking tours of Providence's College Hill and downtown areas. It teaches youngsters about architectural styles and uses early buildings to interpret Rhode Island's history.

PPS has also put together walking tours of many Providence neighborhoods, from Fox Point to the Armory District and from South Providence to Smith Hill. By helping children to recognize and learn about the early architecture in their own communities, these tours emphasize that history lies not only in important landmarks but also in the early houses and other buildings which we can all find in our own neighborhoods. Another popular tour is based on the children's historical fiction written by Avi, a Newberry Award winning local author who has set several of his stories in our capital city. The PPS tour takes youngsters to the buildings and streets which he describes.

The growth and effectiveness of the PPS Children's Education Program is the result of thoughtful and creative staff leadership, input from local citizens and hundreds of hours of service from an enthusiastic cadre of volunteer docents. Together, they have created a program which sets a high standard for excellence.

## Historic Preservation Award



### East Greenwich Preservation Program

The residents of East Greenwich take pride in the historic resources which give their town its character. They can take equal pride in the vision of their public officials and community leaders, who early on recognized the importance of planning as a tool to preserve community character, and in the town's effective historic preservation program.

East Greenwich began its most recent comprehensive planning process in 1986, two years before the state enacted legislation mandating local planning. As a result, the town was ready to adopt an inclusive comprehensive plan only a few months after passage of the state legislation. Incorporated in the plan is a strong historic preservation component based on solid historical and economic facts. By providing for the protection of both historic architecture and open land, it reinforces the town's strong preservation ethos.

East Greenwich not only has a comprehensive plan in place, but also has an active historic district commission and the private organizations necessary to operate an effective local historic preservation program. The East Greenwich Historic District Commission has long played a key role in preserving historic property and in educating citizens about the advantages and means of historic preservation through workshops, tours and publications. Local non-profit preservation organizations and the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce work closely with the Commission to protect the town's unique character.