

THE NINTH ANNUAL  
RHODE ISLAND STATEWIDE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS 2001

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission



The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission's annual State Historic Preservation Awards 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 honor which the Commission bestows.

Antoinette F. Downing served in the volunteer position of Commission Chairman for twenty-seven years, from 1968 to 1996. She has contributed her time, her knowledge, and, most importantly, her vision to shape Rhode Island's state historic preservation 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 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 are invaluable in advancing historic preservation in Rhode Island. When Mrs. Downing retired as Chairman of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, in 1995, the

Commission members elected Mr. Williamson as the new Chairman. In his honor, the Commission established the Frederick C. Williamson Award for Professional Leadership in Preservation.

We salute the recipients of the 2001 State Historic Preservation Awards.



Antoinette F. Downing  
Volunteer Service Award  
Tina C. Regan

For more than a third of a century Tina Regan has been at the heart of Providence's preservation community. Her passion for the cause balanced with objectivity for the issues has benefited both public and private organizations and the city as a whole.

A lifelong resident of the Broadway neighborhood, she first became involved in preservation issues during the 1960s as chair of the West Broadway Project Area Committee, advisory to the Providence Redevelopment Agency. She was instrumental in realizing the area's historic-district zoning ordinance, beginning with a

personal door-to-door campaign in the early 1980s.

Tina's success led to her appointment to the Historic District Commission, which she served for eighteen years, ten as chair. During her tenure, the Commission posted a number of administrative accomplishments that made the city's preservation program one of the state's strongest, including revised design guidelines; operating rules and regulations; and brochures and handbooks for commission members, staff, and property owners.

At Providence Preservation Society she served as docent,

Trustee, tireless volunteer for the Education Committee and the Festival of Historic Houses, and staff member. An original member of the Advisory Committee for the establishment of the PPS Revolving Fund, Tina now serves on the Revolving Fund Board.

The City of Providence and the field of historic preservation are better today because of Tina's time, talent, energy, and persistence.



Frederick C. Williamson  
Professional Service Award  
*William L. Kite, Jr*

Historic preservation offers many opportunities to the architect, both to design and to review design, and few architects have participated in as wide a variety of preservation-related design activities as Bill Kite. Educated at RISD and MIT, Bill has been in private practice for more than forty years. His commitment to program- and site-specific solutions for architectural challenges reinforces his close relationship to preservation. Bill's work creatively engages the historic continuum but does not seek to imitate it.

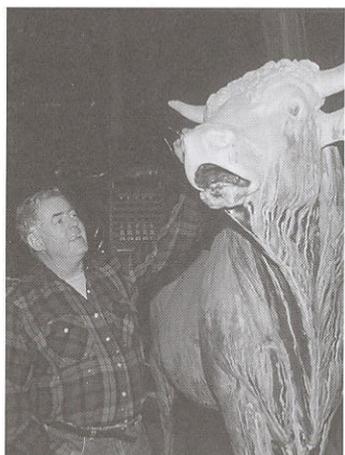
As the principal of William Kite Architects, he has restored historic buildings and produced new

designs. Projects include rehabilitation, such as Smith-Buonanno Hall at Brown University; additions to historic buildings, such as the East Greenwich Town Hall, and 101 North Main Street and St Martin's Church in Providence; new buildings in old neighborhoods, like the Chase House in Providence; and new complexes in historic areas, such as the Zoo at Roger Williams Park.

Designers provide significant insight into both regulatory and voluntary design review. Bill has given professional expertise to the creation of the Providence Historic District Commission's original

design guidelines, to the evaluation of many projects presented to the Providence Preservation Society's Planning and Architectural Review Committee, and to the formulation of policy through the Design Review Committees of both the American Institute of Architects and the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island.

The Rhode Island preservation community is fortunate to have an able practitioner as well as an articulate architectural voice in Bill Kite.



Artisanry  
*The Paul King Foundry, Johnston*

In recent years interest in outdoor sculpture has increased significantly, and more attention is now given to both the appreciation and the conservation of large works of art that grace almost every municipality in the state. Leading the way in ensuring the future of public sculpture is the Paul King Foundry.

The foundry follows in a long and illustrious Rhode Island tradition of metal casting, from the silversmiths of colonial Newport and Providence through the monumental works cast at Gorham Manufacturing Company in this century. Paul Cavanagh, who studied sculpture at RISD and trained

at foundries in Italy and New York, established the foundry in 1967. Since the foundry's beginning it has produced high-quality work, both new castings and exquisite restorations, visible across the country. The variety of commissions undertaken by the foundry has led Paul to become knowledgeable in the field of historic sculpting and casting techniques, an expertise that amply qualifies him for the restoration work the foundry undertakes.

Among the monuments the foundry has restored in Rhode Island are the "Independent Man" atop the Rhode Island State House, the statue of Admiral Esek Hopkins

in Hopkins Square, the "Falconer" in Roger Williams Park, and, currently the Bull Gates at the entrance to Colt State Park in Bristol. The foundry has also worked with sculptors to cast new works, including Kay Worden's "The Wave" and "Hurdy-Gurdy Man" in Newport and Leonard Shartle's "Columbus Quincentennial Monument" in Bristol.

Paul King Foundry, the only full-service fine-arts foundry in New England, gives Rhode Island an exceptional preservation resource whose influence is visible across the nation.



Education & Advocacy  
*Roberta Mudge Humble*

Before they are preserved, each class of historic resource needs an advocate. Increasingly aware of the slow deterioration of Rhode Island's historic armories, Roberta Mudge Humble began her efforts to educate the public and to plan for the preservation of the state's eighteen armories.

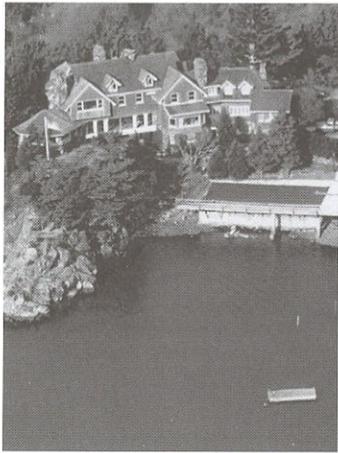
Reared in Westerly, Roberta routinely visited the Westerly Armory for community events and came to feel a special fondness for the building. Her great-grandfather was the armory's original custodian. Years later, when she revisited the building as part of her responsibilities on an advocacy committee

for National Guard and Army Reserve members, the building's neglect inspired her to become an instigator, and Roberta began working with the military stationed in Westerly in the early 1990s. The armory had ceased to be a community gathering place, partly because of new military rules and procedures and partly because of changing attitudes toward the military after the Vietnam War. After the military removed its presence in 1995, she redoubled her efforts.

Eventually Roberta developed relationships with constituencies for all of the state's armories to help

with grant writing and programming. One of her most recent accomplishments is the publication of *Historic Armories of Rhode Island*, co-written with Colonel (ret.) Howard F. Brown; proceeds from the sale of the book return directly to the armories themselves.

Roberta's dedication to this once neglected historic resource provides a wealth of expertise for armory preservation, as exemplified by the numerous national referrals that come her way thanks to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She is a model for advocates of other neglected historic resources.



**Preservation Project**  
*Wildacre, Newport*

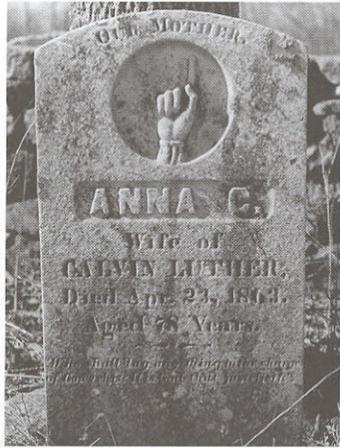
Especially fortuitous are the rare occasions when the exceptionally high quality of an historic resource is matched by the restoration it undergoes. Cooperating closely with the Newport Historic District Commission and the Coastal Resources Management Council, the owner, Mrs Samuel M.V. Hamilton, architects Train & Spencer, and contractor Arnold Construction collaborated to revive one of Newport's highly visible treasures overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Built between 1899 and 1902 as the summer residence of Albert H. Olmsted, a Hartford banker, Wildacre was designed by California architect Irving Gill and set between two rocky headlands above Gooseneck Cove in a ruggedly picturesque landscape designed by his half-brother, the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. When the current owner acquired the property in 1998, the house and its later seaside pool had begun to fail structurally, and the landscape was marred by later, inappropriate outbuildings.

To rehabilitate the property for year-round use, Train & Spencer returned to Olmsted's plans for

the grounds and Gill's concept of closely integrating buildings, secondary structures, and landscape. Structural repairs, removal of accretive materials, and replacement of later windows with casement and sash units based on the architect's original designs revived the main house. Its fieldstone foundation, which makes the house appear to grow out of the landscape, served as inspiration for the remodeled pool, terrace, and grill house at water's edge.

Carefully renovated, Wildacre begins its second century strong as new with clearly modern, highly complementary outbuildings integrated into a restored landscape.



**Preservation Project**

*Archaeological Excavation and Interpretation of the Kelton-Davis and Luther-Fenner-Waterman Cemeteries, Johnston*

When expansion of the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's solid-waste-disposal facility in Johnston encompassed two nineteenth-century cemeteries, planning for their preservation became necessary. Thanks to state legislation sponsored by the late Rep. Leona Kelley, RIRRC planner Dante Ionata and Jim Garman of the Public Archaeology Laboratory undertook a difficult project that

included the removal, study, and reburial of the remains there interred.

Excavation and analysis of seventy-four burial sites provided information about the lives and deaths of the individuals as well as the material culture of death in rural nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Rhode Island. At the wishes of descendants, all artifacts from the site were re-interred, as found, at Johnston's Highland Memorial Park in August 1998.

Garman's project study, "*Nor Ought But Wildflowers There Be Seen*": *Life, Death, and Burial in Johnston, Rhode Island, 1823-1936*

is an outstanding multidisciplinary study that sheds light on the everyday conditions of nineteenth-century farm life and the relationships of the families who made and cared for these cemeteries. The information is particularly valuable for scholars evaluating similar cemeteries throughout eastern North America. Altogether, the methodology, interpretive analysis, and cooperative spirit of the project provides a model for similar projects when preservation in place is not possible or desirable.



**Preservation Project**  
*Providence Performing Arts Center, Providence*

The Providence Performing Arts Center has recently undergone an interior and exterior refreshing that dramatically enhances the building's presence on the street and the audience's experience of attending performances within.

Built at an original cost of \$2.5 million as Loew's State Theatre, the building was designed by Chicago-based architects C.W. and George L. Rapp, known for the elegance and opulence of their designs for movie palaces. This was the largest

(seating 3200) and last of the Downtown Providence movie theatres; when it opened to William Haines's "Excess Baggage" in October 1928, more than 14,000 attended on the first day.

By the mid-1970s, however, the theatre was losing money, and its owner contemplated demolition. A consortium formed by local business leaders acquired the theatre and transformed it into a performing arts center, one of the early, major accomplishments in the late twentieth-century revitalization of Downtown Providence.

Overseen by Newport Collaborative Architects, restoration has

been ongoing for the past three years. Inside, missing lighting fixtures were replaced, a technologically up-to-date performance-lighting system was installed. New Millennium, Inc. revived the decorative paint scheme of the lobby, the proscenium, and the theatre ceiling with stunning results. Outside, the jazzy new marquee is actually a replication of the original, documented with old photographs and architectural drawings. But the new marquee incorporates new technology that enthusiastically announces the architectural and theatrical excitement inside.

PAST RECIPIENTS OF  
STATEWIDE HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION AWARDS

*Antoinette F. Downing  
Volunteer Service Award*

Awarded to an individual volunteer preservationist who has made a contribution either through lifetime effort or in a single significant project

- 2000 Elizabeth S. Warren
- 1999 Ralph E. Carpenter
- 1998 Robert Merriam
- 1997 Ruth Joslin (posthumous)  
William Metz
- 1996 Elizabeth Johnson  
Helene Lee Tessler
- 1995 Isaac G. Smith, Jr
- 1994 Ruth Lebeck
- 1993 Carlton Brownell  
Marian Fry  
Marjorie Matthews

*Frederick C. Williamson  
Professional Service Award*

Awarded to an professional individual or organization that has made a contribution to preservation either over a period of years or in a single significant project

- 2000 Blackstone River Valley National  
Heritage Corridor Staff
- 1999 Charles Jeffers Moore
- 1998 Lombard John Pozzi
- 1997 Alan Leveille and the Public  
Archaeology Laboratory
- 1996 B. Clarkson Schoettle
- 1995 William D. Warner, FAIA
- 1994 Albert T. Klyberg
- 1993 Irving Haynes  
William H. Jordy

*Historic Preservation Awards*

- 2000 State Alms House/Center General  
Salve Regina University  
Neighbors Lane  
Museum of Work & Culture  
First Unitarian Church  
National Rubber Company/  
Kaiser Mill  
Aquidneck Island Land Trust
- 1999 Mount Hope Farm, Bristol  
Washington Square Advisory  
Committee, Newport  
Westerly Railroad Station  
Fletcher Building, Providence  
West Broadway  
Neighborhood Association  
Headquarters, Providence  
Boyd's Gristmill, Middletown  
Crompton Library,  
West Warwick  
Kathy Abbass  
Newport Fire Department
- 1998 Providence Art Club



#### Preservation Project

##### *Crawford House Restoration, Buttonwoods*

After Kathy and David Falaguerra bought their ample, but very much neglected turn-of-the-century house in Old Buttonwoods, they chose to preserve it rather than radically alter or enlarge it.

Built in 1903 as the private residence of the Crawford family, the house was enlarged and converted into a convalescent home within a decade. Subsequently used as a summer home for more than half a century, the house saw little

routine maintenance and no modern improvements; former owners even removed its furnace.

The Falaguerras purchased the house in 1995 and set to work restoring its turn-of-the-century beauty and ambiance. They systematically restored the house: installing a new heating system with salvaged radiators to replicate the original; updating the electrical system; replacing and painting the deteriorated wood-shingle siding; rebuilding the collapsing porch and steps; and thorough interior painting, papering, stripping, and refinishing. They did all the work themselves — while rearing four

young children.

In an era when most homeowners replace, remodel, and modernize, the Falaguerras chose to preserve, repair, and restore the irreplaceable architectural character of their house. That meant learning to live with a century-old pantry and kitchen and a single antique bathroom.

The Falaguerras have undertaken a loving, painstaking restoration of the Crawford House without inserting any detracting modern elements. Their restraint is all-the-more remarkable in a waterside community, especially vulnerable to modernization in recent years.



#### Preservation Project

##### *Holmes Block, 1 State Street Bristol*

An enthusiastic owner, architectural sleuthing, and an imaginative approach to renovation reclaimed a stunning anchor to the foot of State Street on the Bristol Waterfront.

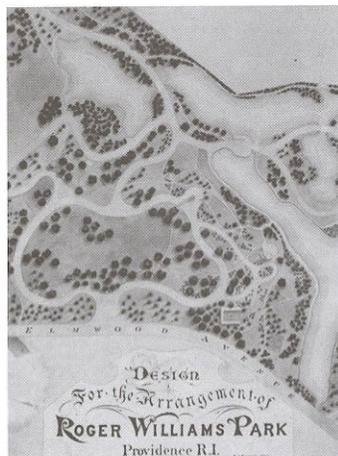
Built in 1884 by Hugh Holmes, the Second Empire commercial block was originally home to People's Market on the first story and hotel rooms above. By the 1930s, however, the building began a long, slow decline: a bar replaced the market, and the rooms upstairs rented by the hour. An aggressive

display of large, irregular false stonework was installed on top of the cast-iron storefront. The building was near dereliction when Aidan Graham, owner of nearby Aidan's Pub, acquired the building in 1999.

Cooperative efforts on several fronts helped both planning and construction. Before the work began, Bristol architect Lombard Pozzi, AIA, located historic photographs of the building's exterior as it appeared in the 1890s, soon after it was built, and careful analysis of the physical evidence gave additional clues. Newport Collaborative architect Robert E.

Leach, AIA, and the owner worked closely with the Bristol Historic District Commission to realize an appropriately restored exterior of the building, with special attention given to the storefront. On the interior, the spatial organization and most of the original materials had long since disappeared; portions of the black-walnut staircase were reused in the reconfigured space, and the detailing was inspired by that of the 1880s.

As the Bristol Waterfront continues to revitalize, the Holmes Block sets a high standard and good precedent for what will follow.



#### Stewardship

##### *Providence Parks Department for Roger Williams Park*

Since the mid-1970s, the tenacious efforts of the Providence Parks Department to rescue and restore historic Roger Williams Park embody the highest commitment to stewardship.

The "Jewel of Providence," Roger Williams Park is one of the country's premier late-nineteenth century public landscapes. Designed by Horace W.S. Cleveland in the mid-1870s and brought to its present 432-acre size by 1893, the park features superb landscaped

vistas and drives as well as architecturally significant facilities for active use, including the Zoo (1890), Museum of Natural History (1895), Boat House (1897), Casino (1898), and Temple of Music (1924). A dozen important works of public sculpture (many cast locally at Gorham) punctuate the landscape.

During the Hurricane of 1938 the park lost more than 3000 trees. Neglect and lack of maintenance between the 1940s and early 1970s resulted in the loss of plant material and architectural deterioration. Roger Williams Park was listed in the National Register of Historic

Places in 1974. Mayor Vincent A. Cianci, Jr. and the Parks Department soon began efforts to reverse decades of neglect. In 1985 the Parks Department completed a plan that focused on preserving and restoring the natural landscape features and historic design.

For twenty-five years, the Providence Parks Department has sustained a continuous effort to maintain and restore Roger Williams Park. Their work offers a national model worthy of emulation by cities across the country.

Kingston Railroad Station  
Ledge Point Cottage  
Globe Village  
Valley Falls Heritage Park  
Historic Preservation  
Program and Center for  
Historic Preservation,  
Roger Williams University  
Rhode Island State  
House Rotunda  
Redwood Library and Athenæum

1997 Cocumscussoc Association  
Candace Allen House, Providence  
St Anthony's Home, Providence  
Bridge Mill Power  
Station Museum  
Ewa Orzechowska  
Warren Preservation Society

1996 Slater Mill  
Lucille and Dale Harter for  
Kit Matteson Tavern  
Providence Preservation Planning  
Old Kent County Courthouse  
King's County Courthouse  
Shepard's  
Samuel B. Conant House

1995 Rhode Island School of Design  
Southeast Lighthouse,  
Block Island  
Winsor Blacksmith Shop  
576 Broad and 39-41  
Harvard Streets, Providence  
John Hunt House,  
East Providence  
Preservation Society of Pawtucket  
Children's Education Program

1994 Witherbee School  
Memorial and Library  
Association of Westerly  
Nicholas Brown, John Carter  
Brown, Angela Brown Fischer  
West End Preservation  
Apartments  
Newport Army-Navy YMCA  
Elmwood Foundation  
for Architectural and  
Historical Preservation

1993 Preservation Society of  
Newport County  
Kenyon's Department Store  
The Town of Bristol for  
restoration of the Burnside  
Memorial Hall  
East Greenwich Comprehensive  
and Preservation Plans  
1258 and 1262 Kingstown Road,  
South Kingstown  
Crescent Park Carousel,  
East Providence  
Rose Island Light House,  
Newport  
Providence Preservation Society  
Children's Education Program