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THE RHODY AWARDS



2010

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Welcome!!

Preserve Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission welcome you to the second annual Rhode Island Preservation Celebration featuring the 2010 Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation. The Rhody Awards honor individuals, organizations, and projects for their contributions to the preservation of Rhode Island's historic resources. And what better way to recognize great achievements in preservation than to throw a statewide Preservation Celebration! Tonight, Rhode Island's preservationists join together to celebrate the enormous positive impact preservation has throughout the state.

The Rhody Awards

Tonight we recognize many people for their outstanding work in home restoration, a "preservation is green" project, and several historic tax credit and preservation projects. Two Rhody Awards pay tribute to individuals who exemplify Rhode Island's commitment to historic preservation. They will be recognized with the highest honors we bestow. The Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award honors the longest serving State Historic Preservation Officer in the nation, and the Stephen J. Tyson, Sr. Artisan Award honors a master preservation carpenter who carefully restored hundreds of Rhode Island's historic landmarks.

Cheers to each of our ten Rhody Award winners for their dedication and passion to preserve our heritage, enhance our communities, and care for the historic structures that make us feel at home. So let's mingle, applaud and have a great time! America's smallest state has a lot to cheer for!

Greetings from Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano

Mayor Jeanne-Marie Napolitano is dedicated to preserving Newport's historic places and rich heritage. In 2005, the City of Newport hosted the 20th Annual Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, where attendees explored Newport's remarkable heritage of historic houses of worship. We are honored to have Mayor Napolitano welcome Rhode Island's preservation community back to Newport to preview the city's newest arts and culture venue.

Introducing the Casino Theatre at the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum

Welcome to the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum and the newly restored Casino Theatre. The theatre first opened its doors in 1881 as part of the Newport Casino and is one of the few remaining examples of Stanford White's theatre designs. The \$4.5 million project included restoration of the interior and exterior, and was the result of a cooperative venture involving the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum, Salve Regina University and a committee of supporters. Learn more about this exciting project when they are recognized with a Preservation Project Award!

To Order a Rhody Award

If you played a supporting role to one of tonight's award winners and would like to purchase a copy of an award for \$50 please visit the Rhody Award Orders table after the presentation or contact Connie O'Connor at coconnor@preserveri.org.

Special thanks to the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum and Salve Regina University for sharing this amazing space with us tonight. It has been a pleasure working with you to make this year's Rhode Island Preservation Celebration a great success! Thank you to Frank Mullin for donating your time and talent photographing our event. And thanks to the Tropigals for assisting with the sale of raffle tickets this evening.

2010 Rhody Awards for Historic Preservation

FREDERICK C. WILLIAMSON PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Thomas E. Wright of Westerly

STEPHEN J. TYSON, SR., ARTISAN AWARD

Keith Lescarbeau of Narragansett

PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARDS

Beavertail Light Station, Jamestown

Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association & RI Department of Environmental Management
Abcore Restoration Company, Inc.

Belknap School, Johnston

Johnson Historical Society | Warren Lanpher

Casino Theatre, Newport

International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum | Salve Regina University
Building Engineering Resources | Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects
Evergreene Architectural Arts | Farrar & Associates | Marshall/KMK Acoustics
Odeh Engineers | Robert Davis Inc. | Wilkinson Associates

The Gates at The Breakers, Newport

The Preservation Society of Newport County
Lodi Welding | Wank Adams Slavin Associates

HISTORIC REHAB TAX CREDIT PROJECT AWARDS

Narragansett Reading Room, Narragansett

Lila Delman Real Estate
Leslie Architects | Living Design Studio | Suburban Renewal | Youngken Associates

Travers House, Newport

Lila Delman Real Estate
Architectural Preservation Group | Franklin and Company
Newport Collaborative Architects

Steeple Street Block, Providence

Capital Properties
Architectural Preservation Group | Bay State Restoration, Ltd.
Deslandes Construction | Ed Wojcik Architects | Izzo Electric
New England Construction Co. | Providence Revolving Fund | RT Group, Inc.
Regan Heating | Roofing Concepts, Inc.

HOMEOWNER PROJECT AWARD

133 Messer Street, Providence

Susan and Gilbert Hartson
DaSilva Painting | Leo's Construction | Providence Revolving Fund

PRESERVATION IS GREEN AWARD

Rhode Island Medical Society Building, Providence

Moran Shipping Agencies, Inc.
Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects | E.W. Burman
JAKlump LLC | Odeh Engineers | Wozny/Barbar & Associates

Historic Preservation Project

Casino Theatre, Newport

International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum
Salve Regina University

The Newport Casino, designed by McKim, Mead & White and completed in 1880, is a National Historic Landmark that marks the emergence of American architecture on the international scene. The Shingle-style complex encompassed a block of shops on Bellevue Avenue, a restaurant, gentlemen's lodging, clubrooms, tennis courts, and the Casino Theatre. The theatre served double-duty as an auditorium, or with its seats removed, a ballroom.

While the Casino's other indoor and outdoor spaces have been restored, the theatre fell into disuse and languished for over 25 years. Fortunately, an innovative partnership between the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum and Salve Regina University's Department of Performing Arts made possible a second act for the historic theatre.

Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects and general contractor Farrar & Associates led a team of specialists to restore the structure as a state-of-the-art performance facility. New lighting, sound, mechanical, and electrical systems were installed. Evergreene Architectural Arts analyzed the original finishes and then carried out the painstaking work of cleaning and infilling gilded ornament, replicating plaster profiles, and cleaning and in-painting decorative stenciling. The newly restored Casino Theatre accommodates Salve's needs during the academic year and the Hall of Fame's programs in summer months; and the project highlights the best of preservation practices and institutional collaboration.



Homeowner Project Award

133 Messer Street, Providence

Susan & Gilbert Hartson

This three-family, late Victorian-style house in Providence's Broadway-Armory Historic District was constructed around 1890. Over the course of the 20th century, it accrued changes that damaged its architectural integrity. By the time that Susan and Gilbert Hartson bought the property in 1986, the house had been covered with vinyl siding, most of its trim had been removed, and the porch had been remodeled.

Working with the Providence Revolving Fund (PRF), the Hartsons were determined to restore their house to its original level of quality and detail. The project included removing artificial siding, completing substantial repairs to the bracketed cornice, repairing and replacing clapboard, fabricating missing trim elements around doors and windows, rebuilding the two-story porch, and a fresh coat of paint. The porch and trim designs were based on physical evidence discovered on the clapboards under the vinyl siding. PRF construction manager Wayne Trissler oversaw work by Leo's Construction and DaSilva Painting between spring 2008 and winter 2009. The project qualified for the Rhode Island Historic Homeownership Tax Credit.

Long-time residents of Messer Street, the Hartsons carried out a high-quality home restoration that not only provides them with a handsome place to live but also demonstrates a commitment to community that extends far beyond the walls of their house.



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Preservation Project

Belknap School, Johnston

Johnston Historical Society

One of the last surviving one-room schoolhouses in Rhode Island, Belknap School served the children of Johnston from 1893 to 1941. The building also functioned as a community center, providing a meeting place for youth groups like the local 4-H club in the 1920s and 1930s and more recently the American Legion Post 92. Just over a century after the building was erected, however, it was little used and deteriorating.

In 2004, the Johnson Historical Society (JHS) took over the building and began its restoration. Preservation carpenter Warren Lanpher completed a complete exterior rehabilitation to secure the structure and signal the society's efforts to the community and passers-by. A State Preservation Grant enabled the JHS to hire Warren Lanpher to restore the school's interior. Work included removing a dropped ceiling, wall paneling, and plywood and linoleum from the wood floor; repairing original wainscoting and replicating missing sections as well as door trim; and installing period blackboards, rescued from a school in Warwick. Original windows were repaired, reglazed, and painted, and the electrical and heating systems were upgraded.

The restored Belknap School once again fulfills its role in educating the Johnston community—this time as a venue for teaching local children about the history of Johnston and education in the "olden days."



Preservation is Green Award

Rhode Island Medical Society Building, Providence

Moran Shipping Agencies, Inc.

How appropriate that a historic building constructed for a profession dedicated to human wellbeing should find new life as a healthy workplace environment. Designed by Clarke, Howe & Homer, the Rhode Island Medical Society Building (1911) had been vacant for a number of years, despite its location across the street from the State House and next door to the Masonic Temple. Somewhat rundown but intact, the building was a perfect candidate for a project that preserved historic character while incorporating sustainable design principles and technologies.

Moran Shipping Agencies, Inc. acquired the building and engaged Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects and E.W. Burman to lead an ambitious rehabilitation. The new office space highlights existing historic features, notably the original iron-and-granite staircase, while introducing contemporary elements such as glass partitions and a conference space suspended in the former library stacks. On the exterior, the masonry was repointed, original wood windows were restored, and new energy-efficient storm panels added. Seeking LEED Silver certification, the building has a geothermal system for heating and cooling, sensors that automatically control lighting, a heat-reducing roof, and many recycled materials. The project qualified for the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit.

This small yet prominent historic building amply demonstrates that preservation of valuable existing resources is the best environmental choice.



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Historic Rehab Tax Credit Awards

Steeple Street Block, Providence

Capital Properties

Comprising three structures constructed between 1827 and 1847, the Steeple Street Block is a significant example of commercial architecture from the Federal era and an important part of Providence's economic and developmental history. Iron merchant Jonathan Congdon and grocer Randall Greene built the initial combination store and warehouse at the corner of Steeple and Canal streets. The eastern end of the block was added in 1847 by George and Smith Owen for their jewelry store and workshop. Since the departure of Congdon and Carpenter in 1930, the complex has been home to numerous small businesses, restaurants, and shops.

Capital Properties project manager Todd Turcotte was very concerned with restoring the building's historic integrity. He commissioned an Historic Structures Report to determine the building's evolution and to identify its significant features. Architect Larry Trim at Ed Wojcik Architects and contractor New England Construction Co. planned and carried out a high-quality restoration. Much of the exterior work—repointing masonry, reconfiguring entrances, and installing true divided-light windows and iron shutters—was guided by a ca. 1865 photograph of the building.

Newly restored, the Steeple Street Block reflects the historical economic development of Providence; and the project, which qualified for a federal historic rehabilitation tax credit, shows that preservation is good for business.



Historic Rehab Tax Credit Award

Narragansett Reading Room, Narragansett

Travers House, Newport

Lila Delman Real Estate

Built in 1875 as a picturesque summer cottage, this building was moved to a more prominent location adjacent to the Narragansett Towers in 1899. From 1910 to 1950, it served as the clubhouse for the Narragansett Reading Room, a men's social organization modeled after the Newport Reading Room. Later converted to commercial use with an auxiliary apartment, it underwent numerous additions and alterations.

Lila Delman Real Estate's vice president John Hodnett initiated the effort to restore the building to its 1890s appearance for its new use as the firm's Narragansett headquarters. Architect Nancy Leslie developed the design for the restoration by consulting old photographs, gathering evidence of lost features hidden beneath layers of shingles, and studying details of other similar Second Empire buildings in South County. Contractor Suburban Renewal carried out the work of opening the enclosed porch on the façade, replicating historic railings, removing layers of shingles that covered the historic clapboard and decorative shingles, and restoring historic finishes on the interior. The project qualified for the federal historic rehabilitation tax credit.

No longer hidden behind unsympathetic additions and alterations, the Narragansett Reading Room reclaims its stature as a Narragansett Pier landmark.

Travers House continued on next page...



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Historic Rehab Tax Credit Award

Travers House, Newport

Lila Delman Real Estate

Newport architect George Champlin Mason designed and built this building in 1879 as an office and rental apartment for William Travers; an 1885 addition included a large chamber with high vaulted ceiling. A later, smaller companion to the adjacent Travers Block, which Travers had built almost a decade earlier, Travers House employs the same picturesque medieval aesthetic. While the exterior retains most of its historic appearance, the interior had been reworked over the course of the 20th century to adapt to changing commercial uses, as a restaurant and tavern.

In restoring the building on both the exterior and interior, Melanie Delman of Lila Delman Real Estate engaged the services of Newport Collaborative Architects and Architectural Preservation Group. The exterior work included creating an appropriate railing for the 20th-century front porch and refreshing wall surfaces. Inside, the original floor plan was re-established and missing finishes were recreated. The project qualified for the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit.

Thoughtfully refurbished, Travers House presents both a rare small-scale late 19th-century presence on Memorial Boulevard and beautifully articulated interior spaces that well serve both staff and clients of the realty company. Now, as when originally built, it projects an image of the very highest quality.



Preservation Project

Beavertail Light Station, Jamestown

Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association

RI Department of Environmental Management

Located at the southern tip of Conanicut Island at the entrance to Narragansett Bay, Beavertail Station has commanded a key navigational spot since the middle of the 18th century. The present granite lighthouse and adjacent keeper's quarters date to 1856, and the assistant's quarters were constructed in 1896. After the light was automated in 1972, the seaside property suffered a gradual decline.

Fortunately, local citizens formed the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association (BLMA) in 1992 to work with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and advocate, interpret, raise funds, and restore the site. Once BLMA developed a preservation plan for the property, they secured funding for the work, thanks in part to two State Preservation Grants. Abcore Restoration Company, Inc. was hired to carry out the meticulous restoration of the lighthouse and keepers' dwellings. Cast-iron catwalks and railings, hardware and fasteners, deck plates, and other deteriorated metal elements were repaired or replaced. Woodwork was repaired, and the fragile granite and brick masonry was secured with a lime mortar formulated to match the original.

The Beavertail Light Station restoration highlights a winning partnership between a volunteer organization that assumed significant financial and administrative responsibilities and a professional contractor committed to the highest possible preservation standards.



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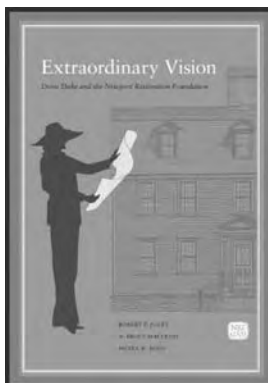
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Historic Preservation Project

The Gates at The Breakers, Newport Preservation Society of Newport County

Designed by Richard Morris Hunt in the Italian Renaissance style and installed in 1895-96, the entrance gates to The Breakers play an important visual and symbolic role at this famed estate. The limestone and cast-iron gates mark the entrance of residents and visitors and frame a view of the house. Their elaborate composition of urns, vines, and scrollwork is surmounted by an oval containing the initials "CV" for owner Cornelius Vanderbilt II.

Over the course of a century, punishing coastal weather had caused the gates to deteriorate and disintegrate. The Preservation Society of Newport County (PSNC) raised funds to assess the gates' condition and carry out major repairs under the direction of Wank Adams Slavin Associates. The sagging, rusty gates were removed and transported to New Jersey where Lodi Welding took them apart, sandblasted them, repaired damage, and galvanized the pieces before reassembly, reinstallation, and a new coat of paint on site.

The Preservation Society of Newport County recognized that restoring the gates to their former glory was an important investment in one of their signature properties and a critical step in preserving the historic character of the streetscape. The restoration of the entrance gates was accomplished with the generous financial support of the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust—including its trustee Gladys Szapary, a Vanderbilt descendant who was an enthusiastic advocate for the project—as well as the Loeb Family Foundation, and the Hope Foundation. The project is continuing, with the restoration of the gates on the north side of the property now underway. Ultimately, the Preservation Society plans to restore the entire perimeter wall around The Breakers—a full 1/3 of a mile long.



Stephen J. Tyson, Sr. Artisan Award

Keith Lescarbeau, Narragansett

With a career that began more than thirty years ago rescuing abandoned houses on Providence's South Side, Keith Lescarbeau has gained the technical expertise and abilities that make him one of the state's most skilled preservation contractors.

Born and raised in South Providence, Keith worked as a rehabilitation specialist with Stop Wasting Abandoned Properties (SWAP) in the 1970s. SWAP board member Antoinette Downing introduced him to broader preservation issues, and Clark Schoettle of the Providence Revolving Fund hired Keith to work on a series of rehabilitation projects on the West Side, South Providence, and Elmwood.

Over the last twenty years as the head of Abcore Restoration Company, Inc., Keith has contributed to the preservation of many of the state's most impressive landmarks, including Shakespeare's Head (1772) and the Fleur-de-Lys Building (1885) in Providence and the Towers (1883-86) and Kinney Bungalow (1899) in his adopted home of Narragansett. Most recently, he has played a major role in saving many of the state's lighthouses, including Plum Beach (1899), Pomham Rocks (1871), Dutch Island (1857), and Beavertail Light Station (1856).

The quality of Keith's craft is matched by a comprehensive approach to each project. From preparation of extensive specifications—often donated to non-profit groups—to the final installation of a minuscule detail, Keith ensures that every project receives a first-rate effort.



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Continued from previous page



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Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award

Thomas E. Wright, Westerly

Thomas Wright is a strong preservation advocate and steward of the state's architectural heritage as project manager within Rhode Island's Department of Administration, the management agency for state-owned properties. By ensuring that critical work was funded—often despite tight budget constraints—and executed by specialized contractors, Tom has preserved the physical and historical integrity of many important Rhode Island landmarks.

Tom manages construction projects that span a wide variety of historic property types and problems. He has long recognized that historic buildings demand special considerations and individualized attention and that their problems often require long-term solutions. At the State House (1895-1904), Tom oversaw the discreet installation of fire prevention and suppression systems and restoration of masonry work on its extensive marble terraces. At the Old State House (1760-62), he obtained emergency funding to stop water leaks and restore damage to the bell tower. He is presently managing a window restoration project at the Newport Colony House (1739), part of a multi-phase conservation effort, and he is organizing state efforts to secure the exterior of the Governor Stephen Hopkins House (1742) in Providence.

Tom's initiative and commitment to his work are demonstrated by the many historic buildings that continue to serve state government and preserve our architectural heritage.



Tom Wright at Rhode Island State House



Frederick C. Williamson (1915-2010)



Fred was a pioneer in the preservation movement in America. He was the longest serving State Historic Preservation Officer in the nation, from 1969 to 2010. Working closely with Antoinette F. Downing, Fred created the RI state historic preservation office as an independent state agency and introduced historic preservation as a regular and routine duty of state government. Fred chaired the RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission from 1995 to 2010.

Fred's career had a national impact on historic preservation. He helped to create the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), the professional association of state officials who carry out the National Historic Preservation programs, and he served as President of the NCSHPO from 1977 to 1979. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a member of the U. S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In 1998, Fred received the nation's top honor for historic preservation, the Louise DuPont Crowninshield Award, presented by the National Trust.

As a President of the Rhode Island Chapter of the Urban League, a founder of the Rhode Island Black Heritage Society, and contributing author to the book *African American Historic Places*, Fred was an eloquent advocate for recognizing that America's heritage is enriched when its full and inclusive story is told. The present success of the historic preservation movement in Rhode Island and in the United States can be traced in the career and many contributions of Frederick C. Williamson.

Tonight's Raffle & Silent Auction to Benefit ***Around the Block: Rhode Island Preservation e-Newsletter***

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Preserve Rhode Island is guided by the mission to protect Rhode Island's historic structures and unique places for present and future generations. Working from Burrillville to Block Island, Preserve Rhode Island has set priorities to focus on:

Guiding community leaders towards solutions that will protect community character; **Building** capacity levels of local organizations and grassroots preservation efforts; **Providing** property owners with resources to care for their historic properties; **Connecting** the public to preservation related news, events, and educational workshops with the *Around the Block* eNewsletter; **Highlighting** the economic benefits of preserving Rhode Island's historic buildings, heritage and unique sense of place; and **Acting** as exemplary stewards of their three historic properties.

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Preserve Rhode Island is the statewide non-profit for historic preservation. We are protecting Rhode Island's historic structures and unique places for present and future generations. We carry out our mission in two major ways: Stewardship - we are ourselves stewards of historic properties; and Preservation Services - we help others throughout the state to be great stewards.

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RI Historical Preservation
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