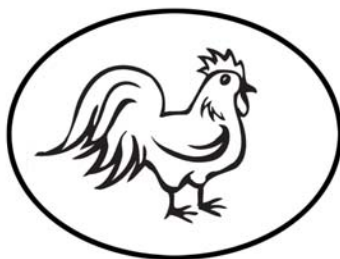


THE RHODE ISLAND PRESERVATION CELEBRATION

FEATURING

THE RHODY AWARDS



2012

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AND

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

WELCOME!

Preserve Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission welcome you to the fourth annual Rhode Island Preservation Celebration featuring the 2012 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, stewardship, and landscape preservation, as well as several 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 Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award honors Rhode Island's founding Commission Chair.

Cheers to each of our twelve 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!

WELCOMING REMARKS

Valerie Talmage, Executive Director, Preserve Rhode Island

Edward Sanderson, Executive Director, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

Trudy Cox, Chief Executive Officer, The Preservation Society of Newport County

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Charles Vacca, Vice President, Pawtuxet Valley Preservation and Historical Society

TO ORDER A RHODY AWARD

If you played a supporting role to one of tonight's award winners and would like to purchase a framed award for \$50, please visit the Rhody Award Orders table by the exit after the presentation or contact Connie O'Connor at coconnor@preserveri.org or (401) 272-5101.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the Preservation Society of Newport County for welcoming us this evening to Rosecliff! Thank you to our event photographer Brittany Gomes, of Brittany Leigh Photography, who has volunteered her time to capture this evening's special moments - so please be sure to smile for the camera! Thank you to our Celebration volunteers — Liz Warburton, Nicole Tella, and Rachael Guadagni — for helping the event run smoothly. And thank you to Plantation Catering of Newport, Inc. for generously underwriting a partial donation of this evening's catering.

2012 RHODY AWARDS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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National Grid | RI Coastal Resources Management Council | Verizon

Sakonnet Light

Friends of Sakonnet Light

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Metal Works Corporation | RI-DOT | Structures North Consulting Engineers

Blithewold Master Plan

Blithewold Mansion, Gardens & Arboretum

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Edwards Hall

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House of Hope CDC

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Linda Steere for the Esten-Bowen House

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SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Robert Owen Jones of the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

ANTIONETTE DOWNING VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Jamestown Historical Society

FREDERICK C. WILLIAMSON PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Eric Hertfelder

LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION AWARD

SCENIC OCEAN DRIVE PROJECT, NEWPORT

In 1851, Newport architect and newspaper editor George Champlin Mason (1820-1894) began to advocate for the creation of a scenic route around Brenton Point. His vision slowly gained support, and the new road system opened in 1868. With its historic resort architecture and stunning ocean views, Ocean Drive is one of the country's most significant and visually compelling National Historic Landmarks. The route stretches along the oceanfront from Bellevue Avenue to Castle Hill, largely unobstructed by buildings for most of its four miles.

Until recently, much of the view was marred by unsightly utility poles and lines. Two years ago, a privately funded initiative removed 22 obtrusive overhead utility poles and overhead wires strung along the waterfront; however, 14 more remained. Removal of the remaining poles seemed a perfect project for the Aquidneck Island Land Trust's Newport Conservation Initiative which aims to conserve important natural resources that contribute to quality of life in the city. With generous funding from the Bilden family, the Land Trust hired Fields of Dreams Tree Farm & Landscaping to coordinate the work in cooperation with local landowners and representatives from National Grid, Cox Communications, Verizon, and the R.I. Coastal Resources Management Council, and the project was completed in 2012.

The private-public partnership led by the Aquidneck Island Land Trust now makes the route even more attractive to thousands of pedestrians, cyclists, kite-flyers, anglers, and motorists. Probably the oldest scenic road in the country, Ocean Drive now recaptures much of the look envisioned by George Champlin Mason 161 years ago.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

SAKONNET LIGHT, LITTLE COMPTON

The prefabricated, cast-iron Sakonnet Light was built in 1882-84 to light a long, dark stretch of shoreline along Narragansett Bay's East Passage, and it remained in service until damaged by Hurricane Carol in 1954. The Coast Guard decommissioned the light and made plans for demolition, but the citizens of Little Compton fought to preserve it.

In 1961, Little Compton summer resident Carl Haffenreffer acquired the lighthouse and maintained it for almost a quarter of a century. In 1985, he donated the property to the Friends of Sakonnet Light, and that volunteer group raised funds and organized volunteers to restore the lighthouse, relighting the light in 1996. Activities at that time included removing guano, sandblasting the cast-iron, and repainting.

After 125 years, however, the lighthouse required significant structural repair. The Friends of Sakonnet Light secured more than \$800,000 in federal Transportation Enhancement Funds matched by almost as much in private donations. Staging the project on a small rocky outcrop offshore and seeing it through in the brief time between hurricane season and winter posed a significant challenge. Structures North Consulting Engineers and Joseph Gnazzo Company led the team of consultants and contractors. Work included cleaning, galvanizing, and repainting surfaces; replacing hardware; repairing cast-iron wall and floor plates; installing new windows, frames, and portholes; and reinstalling the historic brick lining.

Newly refurbished, Sakonnet Light will continue to mark the coastline for another century. As poet Lydia Avery Coonley wrote in 1897,

*So hail! bright beacon of the night,
Hail, and thrice hail, Sakonnet Light!*



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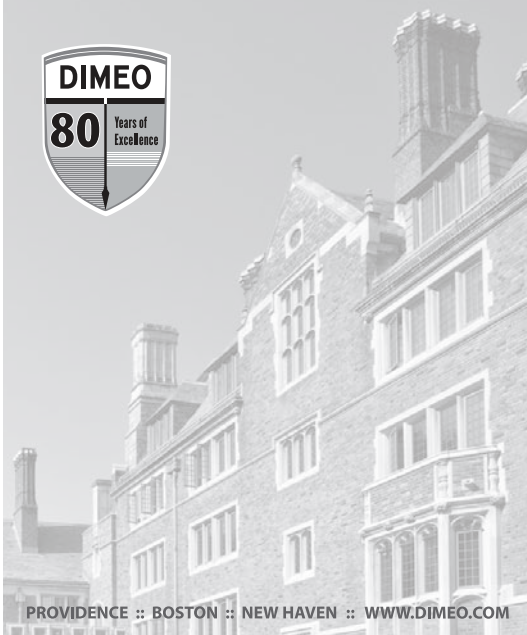
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STEWARDSHIP AWARD

BLITHEWOLD MASTER PLAN, BRISTOL

With its grand views of Narragansett Bay, Blithewold is a nationally significant summer estate with a 45-room mansion (1907) framed by a series of artful gardens with an exceptional collection of rare and unusual plants and specimen trees. About three years ago, Blithewold's Board of Directors initiated a master-planning effort to ensure the future sustainability of the extraordinary property's buildings and grounds. They recognized that expanding its programs beyond the merely incremental would require a foundation of creative thinking that balanced preservation and curatorial professionalism.

Blithewold's Master Plan, completed and officially adopted in December 2011, was drafted by an alliance of nationally known architects, landscape architects, horticulturalists, museum specialists, and historians under the direction of Ann Beha Architects. The plan prioritizes restoration and accessibility needs of its buildings, collections, and highly varied outdoor environments. It provides a platform for programming and historic site interpretation to meet the most advanced standards in stewardship.

Immediately following adoption, Blithewold's Board of Directors began to evaluate plan recommendations, establish plan priorities based on a variety of options, and implement activities that extend many years into the future. As adopted, the plan is an evolving document that will, by its own definition, respond to changing conditions and circumstances while maintaining a consistent vision of what Blithewold was, is, and should become.

At Blithewold, both the planning process and the document it produced serve as a model for others to emulate in planning for the preservation of Rhode Island's special places.



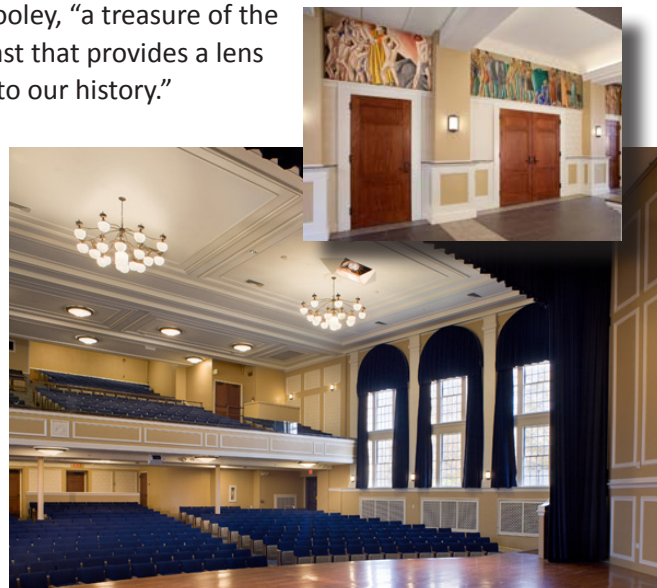
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

EDWARDS HALL, UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND, KINGSTON

A minor asbestos-abatement and fire-code improvement project at the University of Rhode Island's (URI) Edwards Hall blossomed into the significant restoration of interior spaces and long-lost Works Progress Administration (WPA) murals. The elegant Colonial Revival interior of Edwards Hall, which was built in 1927 as URI's first lecture hall and library, had been buried under several remodels over the course of 80 years. Funding from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009—a federal public works program in the spirit of the WPA—made possible the recovery of this campus landmark.

A survey of WPA projects in Rhode Island conducted by URI Professor Ronald J. Onorato indicated murals on campus, but no one knew where they were. The electrical work at Edwards Hall uncovered murals painted by Italian-born artist Gino Conti in 1939-40. The murals depict the performing arts, the protection of youth, the quest for progress, the past, and the four elements. Construction halted to allow technicians from the Williamstown Art Conservation Center to remove, restore, and eventually reinstall the murals in the lobby.

Brewster Thornton Group Architects oversaw the growing renovation project carried out by Calson Corporation. The interiors were redesigned with appropriate finishes and fixtures inspired by historic photographs and architectural drawings, and the auditorium was outfitted with state-of-the-art life safety, lighting, and sound systems. Today the building hosts classes, lectures, honors colloquia, music and dance performances, and new student orientation. The renovated Edwards Hall has become, in the words of President David M. Dooley, "a treasure of the past that provides a lens into our history."



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

RHODE ISLAND CARDBOARD COMPANY, PAWTUCKET

Rhode Island Cardboard Company, organized in the early 1860s, built its new brick mill on Exchange Street in Pawtucket in 1880. The highly successful company manufactured paper collars, photographic materials, and stock for art calendars and boxes. The family-owned business continued in operation until 1976.

When Lerner Ladds Bartels Architects (LLB Architects) began to look for new office space a few years ago, they found that Pawtucket had a solid reputation for supporting arts-related organizations, several of which had located in and around the downtown. The historic Rhode Island Cardboard Company on Exchange Street not only would provide the firm with a distinctive space in a burgeoning arts district but also would showcase their work in adaptive reuse of historic buildings.

On this project, LLB Architects served as both designer and developer, making use of a combination of state and federal historic-rehabilitation tax credits. Together with Case Construction and Odeh Engineers, they oversaw a sensitive restoration of the exterior with creative modern additions on the interior and at the principal entrance. The mill's 5000-square foot floor plates and 8-foot column grids were readily converted into an open, collaborative environment for LLB's new studio. By locating the elevator, central stair, and restrooms in the center of the building, the entire perimeter remains open and flexible.

Renamed the Design Exchange, the building has attracted a variety of new arts-related businesses as tenants. The completed project both retains the historic industrial character of this riverside and invests a new artistic presence and energy into central Pawtucket.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

THOMAS WILBUR HOMESTEAD AND GEORGE GALEN WHEELER HOUSE, WARWICK

Established in 1989, the House of Hope Community Development Corporation works primarily to prevent and end homelessness in Rhode Island. For almost a decade, it has embraced historic preservation as a means to achieve that end.

Using a range of public funding sources, the House of Hope CDC transformed two historic properties, both located in important local historic districts in Warwick. In Apponaug, the Thomas Wilbur Homestead at 3188 Post Road includes an early 19th-century house, barn, carriage house, and several outbuildings. Between 2007 and 2012, House of Hope rehabilitated the house to accommodate its administrative offices while carefully preserving many original features, created a total of five residential units in the renovated carriage house, and constructed an appropriately designed new building. Presbrey Architects worked with Pariseault Builders and Nation Wide Construction on the multi-phase project.

More recently, the House of Hope CDC teamed up with Pariseault, and architect Frank T. Murphy to redevelop the George Galen Wheeler House (ca. 1906) at 57 Fair Street in Pawtuxet Village. An investment of \$1 million in local, state, and federal funds yielded five one-bedroom apartments and a restored exterior appropriate to the historic streetscape. Both projects not only provided much-needed residences for formerly homeless people but also provided employment in the redevelopment of these properties.

The House of Hope CDC serves the homeless by “developing and applying innovative models that couple housing with client-centered services.” These two projects, moreover, serve as creative models for historic preservation.



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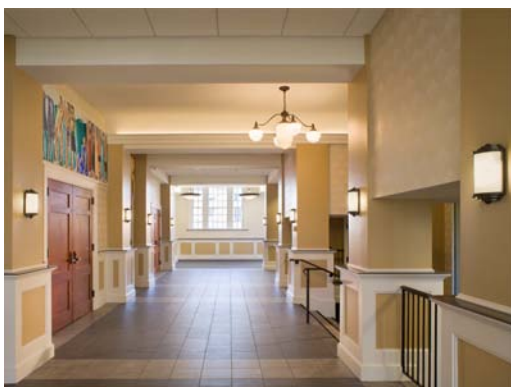
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

ROCKVILLE MILL, HOPKINTON

Built in 1844 in a small hamlet of Hopkinton, the Rockville Mill is a rare survivor of rural Rhode Island's stone textile mill complexes. While most of these factories produced various kinds of cloth, the Rockville Mill specialized in yarn, twine, and cord. Despite a lack of strong water power, the mill continued in operation by making cord and tar-coated fishing line into the 1950s. Rockville Mill continued in limited manufacturing use until a little more than twenty years ago, when it became home to a local post office. The property, with two stone buildings and one archaeological site, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

Owner Marek Zamojski used state and federal preservation tax credits to rehabilitate the Rockville Mill complex for affordable rental apartments. Working with consultants from the Providence Revolving Fund, Urban Design Group coordinated the restoration of the handsome stone mill with its distinctive clerestory-monitor roof as well as a historic auxiliary building. Mazza Construction carried out the work which included the installation of new plumbing and electrical systems, fire alarm and full sprinkler system, septic system, and a well. A handful of original wood-sash windows were restored, and later windows were replaced with new energy-efficient sash. Provisions were made to accommodate a wheelchair-accessible unit in both buildings.

Handsomely completed, the complex now includes fourteen attractive residential units with modern services as well as its own post office, open six days a week.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

LADD OBSERVATORY, BROWN UNIVERSITY, PROVIDENCE

Perched atop Tin Top Hill on Providence's East Side, Ladd Observatory was built by Brown University in 1890-91 to designs by Providence architects Stone, Carpenter & Willson. Much admired at the time, it was published in the prestigious professional journal *American Architect & Building News*. Unlike many other contemporary university observatories, the facility had three distinct missions: academic research, education of the Brown community and the public at large, and marking and transmitting accurate time signals.

From their telescopes in the observatory's Transit Room, Brown astronomers provided a vital service to the people and industries of Providence by taking stellar observations, adjusting the observatory's master clocks, and transmitting time signals. These transmissions were the only means of keeping and regulating standard time in the city from 1893 until 1916.

A State Preservation Grant from the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission supported a major restoration project at the Transit Room. Ed Wojcik Architects oversaw work carried out by the Architectural Preservation Group. The primary goal was to restore the functionality of the Transit Room by repairing the roof hatches and their mechanical lift system. Other improvements included cleaning and refinishing existing interior surfaces, reinstalling electrical wires out of sight, restoring wood sash windows, and repairing wood siding.

While no longer Brown's principal observatory, Ladd remains an important facility for academic research and community outreach. The university's thoughtful restoration of this highly intact historic resource ensures the continuing use of one of the few remaining 19th-century observatories in the United States.



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

GEORGE WILKINSON HOUSE, PROVIDENCE

A native of Birmingham, England, George Wilkinson (1819-1894) became General Superintendent of the Gorham Manufacturing Company in Providence in 1857. He was directly responsible for planning the new plant, completed in 1889-90, about the same time he moved into his nearby Ontario Street home. Wilkinson had selected architect Edward I. Nickerson to design this Old English-inspired house, which evoked the architecture of his homeland.

By the middle of the 20th century, the Wilkinson House had been subdivided into multiple small apartments. The house went into foreclosure in 2008 and became vacant in early 2009. Rhode Island Housing Development Corporation acquired the property, and transferred it to the Providence Revolving Fund (PRF) in August 2010. The house was uninhabitable, with burst plumbing pipes, broken plaster, missing and broken doors, and a substandard electrical system.

PRF planned a \$650,000 renovation funded by public and private sources that would create four comfortable residential units in the house. Casa Buena Builders demolished a later addition that had obscured the southeast corner of the façade, reconfigured the interior while saving architecturally significant spaces on the first floor, restored a fireplace, replaced plumbing and wiring, and completed extensive replastering. Innovative project financing enabled PRF to sell the house to an owner-occupant while reserving three rental units for lower-income tenants.

High-quality rehabilitation and resourceful financial structuring of the project has brought this distinctive neighborhood landmark back to life.

HOMEOWNER AWARD

LINDA A. STEERE FOR THE ESTEN-BOWEN HOUSE, BURRILLVILLE

Soon after Esther H. Bowen (1900-1984) acquired the center-chimney Burrillville farmhouse constructed around the turn of the 19th century by John Esten (1761-1851), she undertook an Early American renovation project. The modest house was largely intact, and Bowen retained much of the original plan and materials. She introduced, however, picturesque and informal elements consistent with the popular taste of the day. Her alterations included an enlarged “keeping-room” space in the rear and a built-in breakfast nook with multiple-pane picture windows off the kitchen. Bowen also made improvements to the landscape by planting crabapple trees and perennial beds.

When Linda Steere, Bowen’s granddaughter, came into possession of the property, the house had deteriorated. She thoughtfully decided to honor and to restore the house’s evolved condition rather than to undertake extensive restoration and engaged expert consultants from Youngken Associates, Architectural Restoration, and Charles R. Oriel Masonry. Work included structural repair to the foundation, replacing some rotted clapboards, repairing rather than replacing interior finishes, and careful upgrading of service systems. Linda used federal preservation tax credits to complete the project. She also stewards the rural landscape, tending the perennials, maintaining the historic outbuildings, and preserving the stone foundations that mark the spots of former buildings on the site.

As sensibly rehabilitated, the house is not only as comfortable and cozy as Esther Bowen imagined it 70 years ago but also a notable reminder of both early 19th- and mid-20th-century tastes.



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FREDERICK C. WILLIAMSON PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

ERIC HERTFELDER, BRISTOL

For 41 years, Eric Hertfelder has provided outstanding professional cultural resource management to the state and the nation. As a leader in both public and non-profit organizations, he has played major roles in formulating and implementing historic preservation policy.

Eric began his preservation career in 1971 as the administrator of the newly established Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. He worked closely with Antoinette Downing to organize the agency's survey and National Register programs. As Executive Director, he worked with Fred Williamson to develop grant programs, hire a preservation architect, and establish the state archaeology program. As project review coordinator, Eric introduced new federal preservation requirements and made the case for historic preservation in the public arena.

From 1984 to 2000, Eric served as Executive Director for the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers. In Washington, D.C., Eric became an effective policy analyst, spokesman, and lobbyist. He advocated for the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to support local decision-making rather than "top-down" priorities and directives.

Returning to Rhode Island in 2000, Eric became Blithewold's executive director, applying his broad planning vision to direct physical, fiscal, and volunteer development. From 2004 until 2012, Eric served as executive director of the Fort Adams Trust. Eric oversaw major restoration projects and the completion and implementation of a comprehensive master plan.



In "retirement," Eric serves on the boards of the New England Museum Association, 1663 Colonial Charter 350th Anniversary Commission, Newport

Restoration Foundation, and Bristol Historic District Commission. He continues to meet the high standards exemplified by his long-time mentor Fred Williamson.

ANTOINETTE F. DOWNING VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

JAMESTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Over the course of a century, the Jamestown Historical Society (JHS) has grown from a small group that gathered to save an endangered building to a community-wide preservation and education organization. JHS's continually expanding activities and programs reach a wide spectrum of ages and interests.

Preserving the Jamestown Windmill (1787) was the group's original focus in 1912. Restored and maintained, this important rural landmark is celebrated every even year on Windmill Day, when the vanes spin and visitors sample jonnycakes. On odd years, the JHS celebrates Battery Day at the historic Conanicut Battery (1776), an earthwork built to defend Jamestown from the British. JHS also stewards the Quaker Meetinghouse (1786) and the Jamestown Primary School (1886), now the Society's museum.

As guardian of the past, JHS has digitized more than 4500 images for online access, rehabilitated their museum, and developed modern artifact-storage space in the museum and Town Hall. On behalf of the Town, the society acquired a historic document drawn up in 1657 among colonists preparing to purchase Quononaquitt (now Conanicut) Island.

Looking to the future, JHS conducts school programs that engage students in Jamestown history. Every year, a board member works with fifth grade teachers to plan the local history curriculum. Subjects have included transportation, military history, volunteer firefighting, the 1938 Hurricane, and local movie making, and the output has ranged from exhibits to student-made videos. The society also curates exhibits at the Lawn Avenue School, the public library, and the museum.

Powered by generations of devoted volunteers, the Jamestown Historical Society maintains the highest standards of stewardship, building preservation, interpretation, and outreach.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION

ROBERT OWEN JONES, RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

A native Rhode Islander, architectural historian Robert Owen Jones documented and explicated the state's architectural heritage over a period of 36 years before retiring from the Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission in 2012.

As a recent graduate of Middlebury College, Robert was hired by Antoinette Downing in 1975 to work on the Commission's statewide survey of architectural and historical resources. Knowledgeable regarding all periods of building, Robert documented a wide range of historic architecture including 17th-century stone-enders, 19th-century mill villages, and 20th-century airport terminals. He has an affinity for residential architecture and suburban neighborhoods of the late 19th century to the mid-20th century. When Robert began his career, few understood the importance of 20th-century architecture in Rhode Island or the need to preserve it. His research, writing, lectures, and tours helped to change those misperceptions.



Robert authored or co-authored survey reports on Barrington, Narragansett Pier, Narragansett, Providence's East Side, and Warwick and contributed to *State Houses of Rhode Island*. He prepared more than sixty National Register nominations starting with his first nomination for Union Station in Providence

and most recently completing an extensive multiple property nomination for Cranston's Edgewood neighborhood. Robert's input has improved countless other nominations.

An expert architectural raconteur, Robert has generously shared his expertise through public presentations to professional and general audiences alike. He has produced dozens of lectures and tours for audiences from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Society of Architectural Historians, Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence Preservation Society, Providence Athenaeum, and other groups.

Robert's curiosity for the built environment has made a substantial contribution to our knowledge and elevated our understanding of Rhode Island's architectural history.

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ABOUT THE PRESERVATION CELEBRATION HOSTS



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.

Learn more about what we do at

www.preserveri.org

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RI Historical Preservation
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The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission is the state agency for historical preservation and heritage programs.

The Commission operates a statewide historical preservation program that identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, structures, and archaeological sites. The Commission also develops and carries out programs to document and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Rhode Island's people.

Learn more about what we do at

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