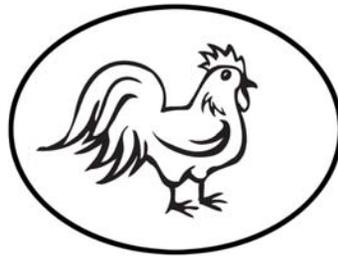


# THE RHODE ISLAND PRESERVATION CELEBRATION

FEATURING

THE RHODY AWARDS  
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION



2013

PRESENTED BY

PRESERVE RHODE ISLAND

AND

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

## **WELCOME**

Preserve Rhode Island and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission welcome you to the fifth annual Rhode Island Preservation Celebration featuring the 2013 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. 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 made throughout the state.

## **THE RHODY AWARDS**

Tonight, we recognize many people for their outstanding work in education and stewardship, as well as several preservation projects. Three 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; the Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award honors Rhode Island's founding Commission Chair; and the John H. Chafee Public Service Award honors the Governor, U.S. Senator, and preservation supporter.

Cheers to each of our eleven 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 F. Sanderson, Executive Director, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin

Representative Jeremiah T. O'Grady

## **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **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 contact Kelsey Nagel at [knagel@preserveri.org](mailto:knagel@preserveri.org) or (401) 272-5101.

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

Thank you to the Weekapaug Inn for hosting this year's celebration. Thank you to our event photographer Brittany Gomes, of Brittany Leigh Photography, who has volunteered her time to capture this evening's special moments — be sure to smile for the camera! And thank you to our Celebration volunteers — Nicole Tella and Dylan Peacock — for helping the event run smoothly.

# 2013 RHODY AWARDS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**STEWARDSHIP AWARD**  
**The Town of Narragansett**

## **PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARDS**

**WEEKAPAUG INN**  
**Lang Wheeler and Chuck Royce**

Adler Pollock & Sheehan, P.C. | Allied Consulting Engineering Services | Arris Design | Cavanaugh Tocci Associates  
Thomas J. Liguori, Jr., Esq. | New England Construction | Northeast Engineers & Consultants | Odeh Engineers  
Anne Penniman Associates | Taylor Interior Design | Ted Wetherill

**WILLETT FREE LIBRARY**  
**Saunderstown Free Library Association**

Easterbrooks & Associates | Ferguson Perforating | Hannah Street Consulting | Inspired Design  
Pinheiro Construction | Clifford M. Renshaw Architects | Southfield Preservation Works  
Sullivan & Sullivan, P.C. | Youngken Associates

**POCASSET MILL**  
**Brady Sullivan Properties and Starr Development Partners LLC**

Concise Design Group | DM Berg Consultants, P.C. | Joe Casali Engineering, Inc. | Epsilon Associates

**CRANBERRY PROCESSING BARN**  
**The Greene Company**

All State Roofing | American Dream Post & Beam | George Carpenter  
K S Electric | VIP Seamless Gutters | Woodford Bros., Inc.

**MILES B. LAWSON OCTAGON HOUSE**  
**Providence Revolving Fund**

DaSilva Painting | Leo's Construction | WR Construction

**TO KALON CLUB**  
**The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.**

E.W. Burman, Inc. | Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects

**EDUCATION AWARD**  
***Explore Historic Newport***  
Newport Historical Society  
Lila Delman Real Estate | Toursphere

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**  
**Sharon Allison, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission**

**JOHN H. CHAFEE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**  
**Michael P. Lewis, Rhode Island Department of Transportation**  
**Michael Rubin, Office of Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin**  
**Gregory S. Schultz, Office of Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin**

**ANTOINETTE F. DOWNING VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD**  
**G. Timothy Cranston**

**FREDERICK C. WILLIAMSON PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
**John R. Tschirch**

# IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE. . .

The Rhode Island Historic Tax Credit is back!  
Helping Rhode Island rehab, re-use and revive historic places.

Preserve Rhode Island joins its many partners in celebrating this tremendous success in 2013.

## 2013 Coalition for Neighborhood & Economic Renewal (CNER)

### Public Interest Organizations

Grow Smart Rhode Island  
The Rhode Island Foundation

### Business Community

Advantage Glass Company  
Robert D'Amico, CPA  
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council  
H K Associates, LLC  
Loans for Investment Properties, LLC  
Nankeen, LLC  
Newport County Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Rhode Island Chamber  
of Commerce  
The Pawtucket Foundation  
The Providence Foundation  
RALCO Electric, Inc.  
UBS Lumber  
UnitedHealthcare of New England  
Yankee Supply

### Community Development

Housing Network of Rhode Island  
HousingWorks RI  
Barbara Sokoloff Associates, Inc  
Community Works Rhode Island  
Greater Providence Habitat for Humanity  
House of Hope CDC  
Mosaico BCDC  
Neighborworks Blackstone River Valley  
Omni Development Corporation  
South County Habitat for Humanity  
Washington County CDC

### Builders/Contractors/ Subcontractors

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Associated General Contractors –  
RI Chapter  
Rhode Island Builders Association  
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Heritage Restoration, Inc.  
Nadeau Corporation  
Peter C. Paltrineri Co.

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AS220  
Cathedral Development Group, Inc.  
Dimeo Properties, Inc.  
The Foundry Development Corp.  
Hecht Development

Knight & Swan, LLC  
Natick School House, LLC  
The Peregrine Group, LLC  
Reinvestments, Inc.  
Rustpoint Advisory, LLC  
Renewable Resources, Inc.

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RI Commercial Appraisers and  
Board of Realtors  
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Butler Realty Group  
Equity Advisory Group  
Jamie Moore Appraisal Services  
Kirby Commercial, LLC  
Places & Spaces Realty, LLC  
Platt Realty Group  
Hayes & Sherry Real Estate  
Salisbury Real Estate Agency  
Peter Scotti & Associates

### Municipalities

RI League of Cities & Towns  
City of Central Falls  
City of Pawtucket  
City of Providence – Dept. of  
Planning & Development  
City of Warwick  
Town of Bristol Economic Development  
Commission  
Town of Johnston  
Town of Lincoln

Town of North Providence  
Town of Smithfield

### Planners, Architects, Landscape Architects

A4 Architecture, Inc.  
Bradford Associates  
Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels  
Architects  
East Design Company  
Kite Architects  
LLB Architects  
Michael J. Warner, AIA  
Newport Architectural Forum  
Northeast Collaborative Architects  
Peter Borgemeister, Architect  
Thurlow Small Architecture  
Union Studio  
Veri/Waterman Associates  
Youngken Associates

### Preservation Community

Preserve Rhode Island  
Grace Church  
Historic Warren Armory, Inc.  
Living History  
National Trust for Historic Preservation—  
Boston Field Office  
Newport Restoration Foundation  
Old Slater Mill Association  
Pawtuxet Village Association  
Pettaquamscutt Historical Society  
Preservation Society of Newport County  
The Providence Athenaeum  
Providence Preservation Society  
Providence Revolving Fund  
Southeast Lighthouse Foundation  
The Westerly Land Trust

*Prepared by Grow Smart Rhode Island*

*The above signed believe that Rhode Island needs a strong, predictable and transparent State Historic Preservation Investment Tax Credit program. We believe that a restructured State Historic Preservation Tax Credit is one of the best economic development and neighborhood revitalization tools that Rhode Island can implement.*

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

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### Weekapaug Inn, Westerly

The Weekapaug Inn has been welcoming visitors to the shores of Quonochontaug Pond since the summer of 1939, when it replaced an earlier hotel destroyed by the Hurricane of 1938. Guests enjoyed simple but gracious accommodations, with windows that could be thrown open to catch the ocean breeze. Originally open just three months a year, the Inn was a true summer getaway.

In 2007, after generations of management by the Buffum family, long-time Weekapaug resident Lang Wheeler teamed up with Chuck Royce of Watch Hill to rehabilitate this local landmark into a year-round destination. The Inn was upgraded to meet modern building codes as well as the demands of a 21st-century clientele without sacrificing its historic character. Historic research and paint analysis revealed the original exterior paint colors, which were replicated, and a cedar-shingle roof replaced asphalt. Battered windows were replaced with units that match the design of the originals, but which can withstand high winds. The interior reflects the historic aesthetic; louvered guest-room doors were re-used as closet doors and some of the original furnishings were incorporated into the renovated spaces. Architect Robert Ornstein of Arris Design oversaw the project, with New England Construction as general contractor, interior design by Nancy Taylor, project management by Ted Wetherill, and legal counsel by Thomas J. Liguori, Jr. The project was made possible with the assistance of State and Federal historic preservation tax credits.

With the completion of this exemplary rehabilitation, the Weekapaug Inn welcomes guests once again.



## STEWARDSHIP AWARD

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### The Town of Narragansett

In the decades after World War II, the seaside resort and agricultural community of Narragansett was transformed into a suburban town. As the year-round population grew from 1560 residents in 1940 to 14,985 in 1990, many farms were subdivided and many historic buildings were demolished for new construction.

Despite development pressures, historic preservation efforts found a foothold in Narragansett. In 1974, the Town acquired a 174-acre tract to prevent new development on the historic Sprague Estate. Today, Canonchet Farm is a town park that preserves open space and archaeological resources. It is also the site of the South County Museum, which interprets the region's agricultural heritage. In 1986, the Town established the Narragansett Land Conservancy Trust. Sunset Farm was the trust's first purchase, preserving Narragansett's oldest and largest working farm and extensive woodlands. Today the Land Trust protects more than 500 acres.

The Town has effectively stewarded its historic buildings, turning white elephants into community assets. The Towers—the only surviving part of the Narragansett Casino (1883-86)—was acquired by the Town in 1990. What had been the hub of the Pier's resort society is now a popular special events venue and beloved community icon. At Sunset Farm, the Town restored the distinctive Kinney Bungalow (1899-1901) as an events destination and recently completed the rehabilitation of the historic farmhouse (1904).

With support from town government, private citizens are also advancing the historic preservation cause. Historic district zoning, established in 2009, assists property owners in stewarding their own buildings and preserving the character of Narragansett's historic neighborhoods. The Narragansett Historical Society was relaunched in 2012 to offer local history programs for a town rediscovering its past.

Thanks to the leadership of town government and the dedication of private citizens, Narragansett is a model for community-led stewardship of historic resources.



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

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### Willett Free Library, North Kingstown

The Willett Free Library traces its origins to 1885, when a group of Saunderstown residents, led by Thomas Willett Stillman Saunders, formed a library association. The group began to raise funds for a library building in 1902. Noted architect and summer resident C. Grant LaFarge provided the plans, and the Colonial Revival-style Willett Free Library opened its doors in June of 1904. Despite its diminutive size, the building provided not only a place to borrow books but also a space for people to gather.

By the dawn of the 21st century, however, the library had become severely overcrowded. The Saunderstown Free Library Association, recognizing that the building's historic character was central to the library's success, set out to expand the building while retaining its quiet charm. Clifford M. Renshaw Architects designed a sensitive solution, increasing the total area to 1,400 square feet and making the building fully accessible. Historic research by Youngken Associates informed the design, which was implemented by general contractor Southfield Preservation Works. The library's historic reading room was restored, showcasing its cathedral ceiling and original woodwork, and the brick fireplace, where children gather to roast marshmallows, remains at the library's core. New spaces reflect the understated character of LaFarge's design, and details like moveable bookshelves enable the library to host community meetings and events. Saunderstown residents rallied around the project, donating to the cause and even storing boxes of books in their homes during construction.

The Willett Free Library has been a focal point in the village of Saunderstown for over 100 years. This sensitive expansion not only retains the building's historic character, but allows the library to serve the community for generations to come.



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

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### Pocasset Mill, Johnston

The mill complex that was Johnston's largest employer in the early 20th century now provides a desirable residential address. The Pocasset Worsted Company Mill was built between 1897 and 1923 on the Pocasset River to produce a variety of worsted yarns that were sold to other companies for weaving and knitting. The mill continued textile production until 1989, when it was converted for use by its last industrial tenants, the Rich Paper Box Company.

Using State and Federal historic preservation tax credits, Brady Sullivan Properties and Starr Development Partners LLC collaborated on the redevelopment of Pocasset Mill. Concise Design Group developed the design in consultation with Joe Casali Engineering, Inc., DM Berg Consultants, P.C., and Epsilon Associates Inc. The roof was replaced, distinctive brick smokestack and steel water tank restored, masonry repaired and repointed, and the site was regraded and landscaped. The mill interior was rehabilitated to provide 92 market-rate rental apartments—with 18-foot ceilings. Original features like sliding metal doors, scales for weighing wool, staircases with beadboard enclosures, and tongue-and-groove wood flooring were restored.

Much of the mill complex is dedicated to common spaces and amenities for the residents. The boiler house now hosts a basketball court, and the engine house contains the lobby, television room, lounge, library, gathering room, game room, communal kitchen, a fully equipped fitness center, and offices. Outside the mill, there is a shared patio. Although the lower level of the mill is located on a floodplain and not suitable for residential development, the developers were able to convert the space into a garage and offer indoor parking for 33 cars.

The high-quality rehabilitation of Pocasset Mill demonstrates that a town's historic mill buildings are enduring resources for economic development and community life.



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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

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### Cranberry Processing Barn, Coventry

Located on Rhode Island's largest and oldest operating cranberry farm, the Cranberry Processing Barn is a rare agricultural structure purpose-built for the storage and processing of cranberries. The barn was erected on the banks of Roaring Brook in Coventry by the American Cranberry Company in 1890 and expanded by the Summit Cranberry Company in the 1930s. Cranberries harvested from the nearby bogs arrived at the barn to be poured through chutes on the upper floor, bounced onto a conveyer belt below, hand-sorted, crated, and stored before shipping. After processing activities moved offsite in the early 1960s, the barn fell into disrepair.

In 2005, the Greene Company catalogued and removed the antique sorting and grading machinery in anticipation of a major barn rehabilitation project. After he completed structural repairs with Woodford Bros., Inc., general contractor George Carpenter fashioned new board-and-batten siding, replaced and repaired wood flooring, repaired the barn doors and hayloft doors, and restored the beadboard partitions. All State Roofing stripped the old shingles, repaired and replaced the sheathing, and installed new shingles.

In the winter, when the cranberry bogs were dormant, Greene Company employees reported for work at the barn. Bog manager Greg Underwood improved site grading and repaired the distinctive metal cupola. Bog workers reglazed the windows, painted and installed the board-and-batten siding, and painted interior surfaces. New gutters, downspouts, and sitework by VIP Seamless Gutters have improved drainage around the barn, and new electrical service by K S Electric keeps the refurbished sorting and regrading equipment humming for public demonstrations.

As the market for cranberries expands, the Greene Company continues to innovate and adapt the latest methods of harvesting and maintaining their bogs. At the same time, the family firm invests in the past. The restored Cranberry Processing Barn preserves a unique aspect of Rhode Island's rich agricultural heritage.



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

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### Miles B. Lawson Octagon House, Providence

In the 1850s and 1860s, a curious architectural fad emerged along the east coast and in the midwest. Thousands of people built eight-sided houses inspired by popular author and phrenologist Orson S. Fowler. He claimed that octagonal architecture was cheap to build, easy to heat and ventilate, efficient in its use of natural light, and convenient in its interior plan. Miles B. Lawson erected his octagonal house on Public Street around 1855.

By 2010, Lawson's folly was decrepit and in foreclosure. The Providence Revolving Fund purchased the property and used funds from the City of Providence HOME program, Building Homes Rhode Island, and Rhode Island Housing's LEAD program to rehabilitate the house for two families.

Under the direction of the Revolving Fund, three firms—Leo's Construction, DaSilva Painting, and WR Construction—carried out the rehabilitation. The roof was replaced, original cornice and brackets restored, original door and windows replicated, foundation repaired and reparged, and exterior painted. Structural repairs challenged the carpenters but strengthened the eight-sided frame. Inside, original features—like the curved front stair, wood floors, mantels and fireplaces around the eight-sided center chimney, wainscoting, crown molding, and plaster ceiling medallions—were refurbished in place. New electrical, plumbing, and heating systems as well as new bathrooms and kitchens in a rear two-story addition provide all modern conveniences.

The restored Miles B. Lawson Octagon House fulfills the promise of eight-sided architecture, providing "beauty, utility, and comfort" to its new homeowners, Alexander Karoff-Hunger and Chandelle O. Willson. They both had grown up nearby, and each had long admired the building. Already in love with the house, the couple fell in love with each other. They vow to care for the octagon house eight days a week.



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## HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECT AWARD

### TO KALON CLUB, PAWTUCKET

The To Kalon Club was built in 1911 as the headquarters for a private men's association, founded in 1867 by Pawtucket's industrial leaders. The Georgian Revival-style building provided members with a place to relax and dine amidst elegant surroundings, which included a grand central staircase, handsome wood paneling, leaded glass panels, historic light fixtures, and a corbelled brick fireplace.

When the To Kalon Club disbanded a century later, the building went on the market. Fortunately, the club had been an excellent steward of the property; architectural features survived largely intact, and the original floor plan had barely been altered. The Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL), a cultural resources management firm, stepped in to ensure that this architectural gem would be preserved. With the assistance of Federal historic preservation tax credits, PAL converted this former social club into the firm's offices. Durkee, Brown, Viveiros & Werenfels Architects oversaw the project, with E.W. Burman serving as general contractor. Exterior brick was re-pointed; original windows restored or, where missing, replaced in kind; and the 100-year-old slate roof was retained. Sections of the iron railing, removed when the porch was partially enclosed, were re-created and the porch opened up. Interior finishes were restored, and common spaces – which include a lounge with original furnishings, several dining rooms, a bar, and a billiards room – were converted to offices and meeting rooms.

Built to give Pawtucket's businessmen a respite from the office, the To Kalon Club now provides state-of-the-art work space for 45 archaeologists, architectural historians, preservation planners, and support staff – a fitting use for this meticulously restored Pawtucket landmark.



## EDUCATION AWARD

### Explore Historic Newport

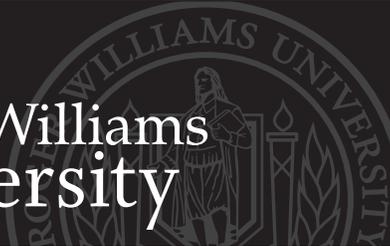
History goes digital with the Newport Historical Society's mobile website, *Explore Historic Newport*. An interactive mix of historic photos, audio clips and compelling stories, *Explore Historic Newport* was designed specifically for use on portable devices like smart phones and tablets. It serves as an on-the-go resource for visitors to the City by the Sea.

*Explore Historic Newport* currently includes information on over 75 sites, from colonial-era burial grounds to the mansions on Bellevue Avenue. Each site illuminates a particular aspect of Newport's past, and together they demonstrate the breadth of the city's history. The website features a GPS-enabled map that can locate the user and identify nearby sites, enabling visitors to view information "on location" – creating their own self-guided walking tour. Those interested in a particular topic or era will find sites grouped by theme or time period, and links to additional information allow users to delve deeper with a tap of the finger. *Explore Historic Newport* complements other educational programs in the city, by directing visitors to exhibits, upcoming events, and sites that are open to the public. The website's flexible platform allows it to grow and evolve; the Newport Historical Society plans to expand the content to other neighborhoods, add images of artifacts from the Society's collections, and incorporate videos and oral histories. *Explore Historic Newport* was developed by Stacie Parillo, Registrar/Archivist and Ingrid Peters, Director of Education at the Newport Historical Society.

With *Explore Historic Newport*, the venerable Newport Historical Society has embraced the technology of the 21st-century. This forward-looking program, one of the first of its kind in the state, ensures that Newport's stories will be told far and wide.



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## JOHN H. CHAFEE PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

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### **Michael P. Lewis**

Rhode Island Department of Transportation

### **Michael Rubin**

Office of Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin

### **Gregory S. Schultz**

Office of Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin



Beginning in 2007, the Office of the Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin provided legal support for the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission's (RIHPHC) efforts to protect a 900 year-old Indian village in Narragansett from destruction. The owner, who planned to develop a housing subdivision, sued the Commission in federal court and contested the recommendation that the state Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) withdraw permission for the development.

Though the legal issues were contentious, the extraordinary significance of the site was never in doubt. The Late Woodland period village contains rare evidence of the Narragansett Indians' daily life before European settlement. Well-preserved residential structures, storage and refuse areas, human burials, and ceremonial areas comprise an archaeological site of national significance that has changed theories about Native settlement patterns and maize agriculture.

Environmental Advocate Michael Rubin and Special Assistant Attorney General Gregory S. Schultz effectively represented RIHPHC in federal court and in hearings before the CRMC. Thanks to their legal arguments, the owner lost his lawsuit in Federal District Court in 2010, lost his appeal in the First Circuit Court in 2011, and the U.S. Supreme Court denied the owner's petition for further review – upholding the State's position. Meanwhile, Schultz represented RIHPHC and advocated for protection of the site through a series of ten contested CRMC hearings from 2010 to 2012. Ultimately the CRMC upheld the right to develop the property, but required additional archaeology before any construction could begin. Through every step of this extraordinary legal process, Attorney General Kilmartin and attorneys Rubin and Schultz defended the State's right to protect the significant archaeological resources at Salt Pond.

Preservation of the Salt Pond Site was finally achieved when federal funding became available to purchase the property thanks to the leadership of Michael P. Lewis at the R.I. Department of Transportation (RIDOT). Between 2009 and 2011, planning for a major highway project on Interstate 95 in Downtown Providence revealed significant archaeological impacts and potential archaeological costs in excess of \$20 million at the "Covelands" site which is buried deep in toxic

soil. With the approval of the Federal Highway Administration and the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office, RIDOT purchased the Salt Pond Site in Narragansett in 2013 as "Alternate Mitigation" for archaeological impacts to the Covelands Site in Providence. The only Native American coastal village ever found in the Northeast has been saved thanks to the extraordinary public service of Michael Rubin and Gregory Schultz in the Office of Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin and Michael P. Lewis, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Transportation.

Salt Pond image courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

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### **Sharon Allison, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission**

Sharon Allison has recently retired from her position as a Senior Historic Preservation Specialist at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission. For 29 years she provided assistance to local government historic preservation projects and historic district commissions, and administered grants and loans to restoration projects.

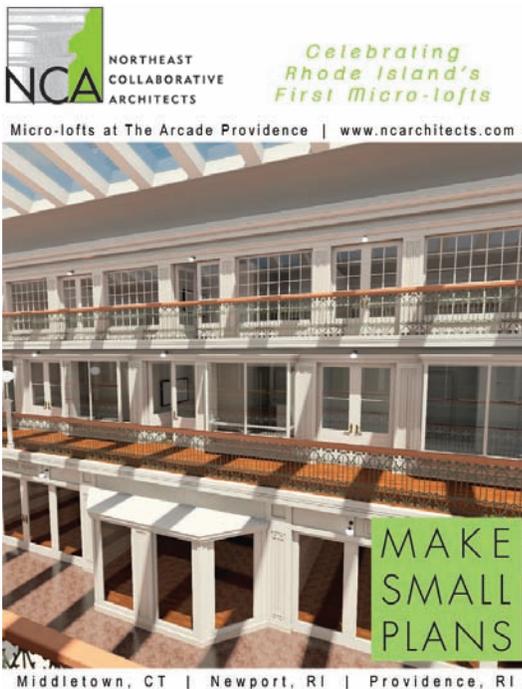
As the Certified Local Governments Coordinator, Sharon worked with the seventeen cities and towns in Rhode Island that have local historic district commissions. Each year, RIHPHC makes grants to support preservation projects in these communities, and over her career Sharon managed hundreds of CLG grants. Some grants created preservation plans for individual sites and for whole communities; other grants created educational materials such as design review guidelines, historic district commission procedures, and public walking tours; while still more projects produced National Register nominations and feasibility studies for endangered historic buildings.

Sharon also managed State and Federal grants for restoration of public historic sites and loans for restoration of privately-owned historic properties; in all, her work made it possible to preserve more than 200 historic places.

Preservation works when people like Sharon can deliver programs and resources to help local preservationists meet the needs in their communities.



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CLOSER TO THE ISSUES

**G. Timothy Cranston, North Kingstown**

G. Timothy Cranston may have been named North Kingstown's first official town historian in July, but he has held the post unofficially for years. Tim's passion for local history stems from his family's deep Rhode Island roots. His ancestor, John Cranston, arrived on Aquidneck Island in 1635, and Tim was born and raised in Wickford. Through Tim's efforts, visitors and residents alike have learned about the remarkable architecture and history of North Kingstown.

Readers of the *North East Independent* know Tim from his local history column, which has been running for more than fourteen years. His first book, *North Kingstown: 1880-1920*, was published in 2005. Tim has since produced three guidebooks to Wickford, which provide detailed information on over 225 buildings. Engaging and thorough, the *Walking in Olde Wickford* series is an essential companion when touring the village. For those who prefer to have an expert guide them, Tim leads frequent tours of the region. His research and public programs shine a light on lesser-known stories, including those of women, African Americans, and Native Americans. Tim generously shares his knowledge and enthusiasm with North Kingstown youth, leading elementary school field trips and developing a local history course with the high school.

Tim has spent countless hours researching and presenting North Kingstown's history, motivated by a desire to educate current generations and to honor his predecessors. In his words, we "owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before us... In making an attempt to understand their trials and tribulations, joys and sorrows, we can learn something of who we are as a community...in learning about them we bring them back to life, if only for an instant."

**John R. Tschirch, Bristol**

As an architectural historian, teacher, and writer, John R. Tschirch excels in interpreting the architectural and social evolution of historic houses and landscapes. His scholarship and leadership changed the way that the Preservation Society of Newport County (PSNC) conserves, interprets, and presents Newport's decorative arts, architecture, and landscapes to the public.

John received his B.A. in History from Providence College in 1983 and his M.A. in Architectural History and Historic Preservation from the University of Virginia in 1986. He got his start at the PSNC in 1982 as a summer tourguide at The Elms. Appointed Director of Education in 1986, Director of Academic Programs and Architectural Historian in 1995, and Director of Museum Affairs in 2010, John built a strong department that professionalized collections management, expanded research capacities, and reinvigorated interpretation in the mansions, on Bellevue Avenue, and beyond. Projects included six National Historic Landmark nominations, the creation of the Newport Symposium, and the loan exhibition of Newport treasures for the New York Winter Antiques Show.

John's research has been published in *The Magazine Antiques*, *Encyclopedia of New England Culture*, *Journal of the New England Garden History Society*, and *Parisian Palaces of La Belle Epoque*. He has lectured widely in the U.S. and abroad on historic houses, landscapes, and their preservation.

Earlier this year, John retired from the Preservation Society to spend more time as an instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design's Continuing Education program, as a consultant, and as a writer. He is presently working on a historical novel that is rich in the architecture, gardens, food, and fashion of late 17th-century France. John's many accomplishments as an architectural historian will serve him in starting a new chapter of a creative career.



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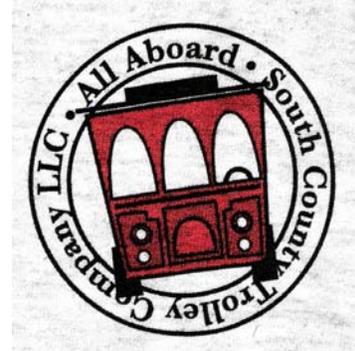
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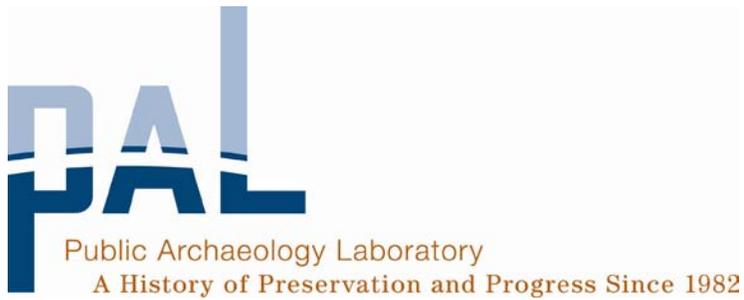
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Preserve Rhode Island is the statewide non-profit for historic preservation. We are protecting Rhode Island's historic structures and unique places for present and future generations. Preserve Rhode Island carries out its mission through advocacy, stewardship, and preservation programs.

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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.

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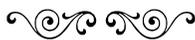
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