



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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Photos: Loeff Carousel, E.P.; Arnold Lumber, S.K.; Briggs-Boesch Farm, E.G.

**RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
AWARDS GRANTS TO EAST GREENWICH, EAST PROVIDENCE, NORTH
SMITHFIELD, PAWTUCKET, PROVIDENCE, AND SOUTH KINGSTOWN**

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) is awarding seven grants totaling about \$57,900 to local historic preservation programs. Grants to East Greenwich, East Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Providence, and South Kingstown will support a variety of local preservation activities, including plans, specs, and oversight for restoration of a historic carousel; a master plan for a historic school building; planning documents for a historic town-owned farm; a National Register nomination for an industrial district; a charrette for a historic state-owned building; the reevaluation of a historic commercial district; and the annual statewide historic preservation conference.

In making the announcement, RIHPHC Executive Director Edward F. Sanderson stated: "The work carried out by municipal historical preservation programs is very important to our statewide preservation efforts. These grant awards are an acknowledgement of the commitment which these communities have made to protect their historic resources. The Commission is pleased to support activities which local governments have identified as high priorities."

The Town of East Greenwich has secured a \$7,400 grant to fund a conditions assessment and maintenance plan for the town-owned Briggs-Boesch Farm. The 72-acre property includes a farmhouse, barn, outbuilding, and stone walls. The funded report will recommend capital improvements and present an annual maintenance plan for all of the historic structures.

The City of East Providence will use a \$10,000 grant to hire an architecture firm to prepare plans, specifications, and a request-for-proposals for contractors, and to oversee window restoration and other exterior repairs at the Loeff Carousel in Riverside. Built in 1895 by master craftsman Charles I.D. Loeff, the carousel is a National Historic Landmark.

The Town of North Smithfield will receive a \$6,500 grant to hire a consultant to prepare

a master plan for the Forestdale Schoolhouse, which was built in 1877 and is presently maintained and interpreted by the North Smithfield Heritage Association. The master plan will present alternatives for the best use of the building, a capital improvement strategy and timetable of priorities, cost estimates, and recommendations for funding sources.

The City of Pawtucket will use \$9,000 to pay a historic preservation consultant to prepare a National Register nomination for a cluster of industrial buildings that formerly housed the Jencks Spinning Company on Weeden Street. The factory complex was used for the manufacture of yarn, cloth, and tire cloth.

The City of Providence, working with West Broadway Neighborhood Association and Providence Preservation Society, was awarded \$10,000 to hire a consultant to facilitate a day-long charrette focused on producing a reuse strategy for the Cranston Street Armory. Designed by William R. Walker & Son, the massive armory was constructed in 1907.

The Town of South Kingstown will receive a \$5,000 grant to hire a preservation consultant conduct a comprehensive survey of the Wakefield Historic District and update the existing National Register nomination. The district has a variety of well-preserved commercial, residential, and industrial buildings built over the course of two centuries.

The Commission has also reserved \$10,000 to fund the 2017 Rhode Island Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. A location for the event will be announced later this year.

These grants are part of the Commission's Certified Local Government (CLG) program, which provides assistance to cities and towns who protect the historic character of their communities through local historic district ordinances. Towns whose historic district ordinances and review procedures meet CLG standards are certified by the Commission and become eligible to receive grants and technical assistance.

CLG grants are funded by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service and awarded and administered by the R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. Currently eighteen Rhode Island cities and towns are Certified Local Governments.

The R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission is the state office for historic preservation and heritage programs. Rhode Island's statewide historic preservation program identifies and protects historic buildings, districts, and archaeological sites. The Commission conducts statewide surveys of historic sites and buildings; nominates significant properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register; administers programs of financial aid including grants, loans, and tax credits; reviews federal, state, and local projects to protect cultural resources; regulates archaeology on state land and under state territorial waters; and assists the preservation efforts of local governments, preservation societies and property owners. The Commission also is responsible for developing and carrying out programs to document, support and celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Rhode Island's people.