

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

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July 31, 2017

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

I have worked at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission for 42 years, and I have decided that this is the right time for me to retire and for the Commission to transition to new leadership. I started as staff to the Providence Historic District Commission, and became RIHPHC Executive Director in 1984 after serving as Deputy Director.

I had the rare opportunity to learn from Antoinette Downing and Fred Williamson, two great leaders of America's historic preservation movement who preached time and again that Rhode Island's extraordinary historical resources are worth preserving; and I have been privileged to work with outstanding RIHPHC staff members, Commissioners, and friends and colleagues like you. During my tenure, we have documented and protected thousands of historic buildings and archaeological sites and approved historic rehabilitation and restoration projects for approximately 2,500 historic buildings representing investment of \$2.8 billion in Rhode Island's heritage and economy.

The Commission has named Jeffrey Emidy to serve as Acting Executive Director beginning August 1. He is very experienced in managing our programs as RIHPHC Deputy Director. Jeff's contact information is [Jeffrey.Emidy@preservation.ri.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Emidy@preservation.ri.gov) 401-222-4134.

In the coming months, I'll assist the Commission to recruit candidates for the permanent job and help Jeff in any way he asks. During this transition, I'll continue to serve as Governor Raimondo's appointed State Historic Preservation Officer, and my email address is still [Edward.Sanderson@preservation.ri.gov](mailto:Edward.Sanderson@preservation.ri.gov).

Working at the RIHPHC is the only job I've ever had, and historic preservation has been very important to me personally. One thing I've learned is that historic places are not saved just once, they must be preserved every day, year after year, by owners and advocates like you who care about them. Thank you for your work, the job isn't done yet.

Yours truly,

Ted Sanderson