



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

### HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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### HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION OVERVIEW

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission is the state agency for historic preservation and heritage programs. The Commission identifies and protects historic and prehistoric sites, buildings, and districts by nominating significant properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register; administers grants, loans, and tax credits for rehabilitation of historic buildings; reviews federal and state projects that affect cultural resources; and regulates archaeological exploration on state land and under state territorial waters. The Commission also develops and carries out programs to document, support, and celebrate the ethnic and cultural heritage of Rhode Island's people.

Created in 1968, the Commission consists of fifteen members who serve in a voluntary capacity. Ten public members are appointed by the Governor and include an historian, an archaeologist, an architectural historian or an architect, a landscape historian or landscape architect, a museologist, and an anthropologist. Five members serve *ex officio*: the director of the Department of Environmental Management, the director of the Commerce Corporation, the associate director of Administration for planning, the State Building Commissioner, and the State Historic Preservation Officer. The Commission employs a staff of 15.6 FTEs that includes administrators, historians, architectural historians, archaeologists, and architects. The Commission's funds come from state and federal appropriations.

The Commission has:

- surveyed over 55,000 historic properties including over 3,000 archaeological sites.
- published 55 neighborhood, town, and other survey reports.
- nominated approximately 21,000 properties to the State Register and National Registers of Historic Places, including 177 historic districts.
- approved Federal and State tax credits for 740 completed projects valued at \$2,956,643,247.
- assisted rehabilitation of 9,718 living units, 18 percent for low/moderate income residents.
- approved state historic homeowner tax credits for 1,054 projects valued at \$22.49 million.
- awarded \$21 million in grants to 759 projects statewide with total project value of \$121 million.
- held and monitored preservation easements on 331 historic properties, of which 142 are active.
- reviewed an average of approximately 1,400 state and federal projects annually.
- certified local government historic preservation programs in 18 communities.
- provided \$8.7 million in low interest loans to 130 restoration projects.
- presented 35 annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conferences with average attendance of 500 people.
- sponsored 45 annual State Heritage Festivals and also participated in heritage events throughout the year serving over 50,000 people.
- conducted folklife studies to document the heritage of Rhode Island ethnic groups.
- received national awards from the American Association for State and Local History, The Society of Architectural Historians, the Society for Historical Archaeology, and the American Institute of Architects.

Ruth S. Taylor, Chair

Jeffrey D. Emidy, Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer