

Ensuring Rhode Island's story is preserved for generations to come

State Archives and History Center



The Rhode Island State Archives and History Center will be a cultural and educational destination within the State government complex in Providence, Rhode Island.

The proposed 52,000 square foot, state-of-the-art facility would feature:

- Permanent and rotating exhibit space.
- Multi-use public meeting space equipped for interactive learning.
- A conservation and digital preservation lab.
- A secure storage space, including a temperature and climate-controlled vault and state-of-the-art fire suppression and HVAC and filtration systems, for some of Rhode Island's most precious historic artifacts.



Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

What's in the State Archives?



OUR HISTORY
Priceless documents from our nation's founding



OUR GOVERNMENT
General Assembly proceedings dating back to 1649, and Public Laws, Acts & Resolves dating back to 1647



OUR FAMILIES
Genealogy records dating back to the 1600s



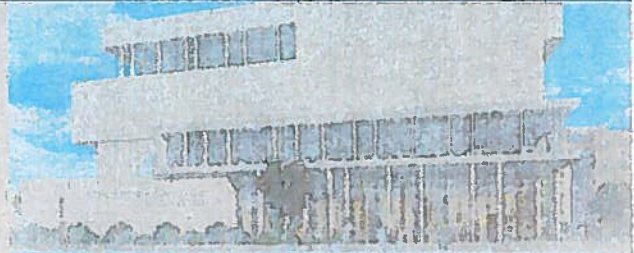
OUR STORY
Petitions from over 2 million Rhode Islanders

Current Annual Lease for State Archives Space:
\$280,288.30

(does not include utility costs or parking)

Current State Archives Square Footage:
**1,234 sq. ft. of commercially-leased office space, plus
6,000 sq. ft. of vault space**

Records Stored Off-Site:
**Over 4,000 boxes, which are inaccessible to the public
without a paid transfer**



Anticipated Project Cost:
\$101,655,492

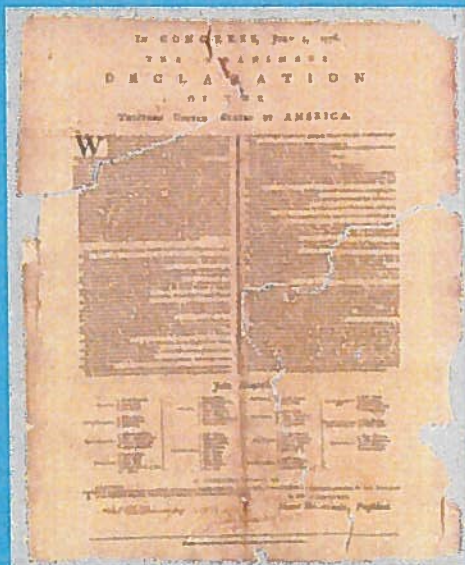
Anticipated Square Footage:
52,000 sq. ft.

The current State Archives facility is located in a leased space on Broad Street, which **does not allow for the permanent display of Rhode Island's historic treasures**. While the State Archives collection is preserved in a dedicated space that meets minimum standards for vaults, **it is not stored according to archival best practices** that would most effectively preserve these artifacts.

Notable treasures that cannot be safely displayed in the existing facility include:

- The Gaspee Commission (1772);
- Battle of Rhode Island Map, General Sullivan's Expedition (1778);
- The Bill of Rights (1789);
- Declaration of Independence, Stone Printing (1823); and
- The Dorr Rebellion Map of Roads Leading to Chepachet (1842).

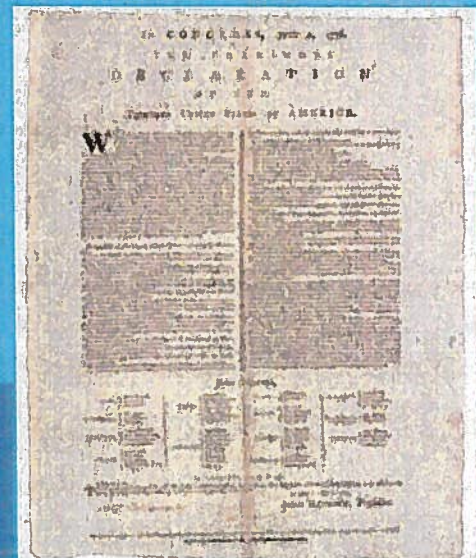
The State Archives is home to one of the original thirteen copies of the Declaration of Independence signed by John Hancock and sent to the colonies in the early days of the American Revolution in 1777.



The document's original condition (pictured on left) was very brittle with several large tears that separated it into three pieces.

Following the 14 week restoration project, the document was fully restored and all fragments were rejoined.

Proper maintenance and storage now will minimize costly and risky conservation processes like this in the future.



Preserving our state's historical records