



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

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**STEWARD OF THE COLONIAL CITY:  
NEWPORT RESTORATION FOUNDATION  
TO RECEIVE STATE PRESERVATION HONORS**

The Newport Restoration Foundation will be presented a Stewardship Award at Rhode Island's 23rd Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at 9 am at Trinity United Methodist Church in Providence. Founded by Doris Duke in 1968 to rescue the rapidly disappearing architecture of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century city, the Newport Restoration Foundation has played an important role in Newport's preservation for 40 years.

The Foundation's most visible legacy is the more than 80 houses, mostly in the Hill and Point neighborhoods, acquired and restored during the 16 years following its founding. NRF engaged more than 100 architects and skilled artisans to restore these houses, most of which are rented to individuals and families. In undertaking this effort, the Foundation achieved three important goals. It restored the houses and preserved the uses for which they were originally built. Further, it significantly maintained and reinforced the 18<sup>th</sup>-century streetscapes in the heart of historic Newport. Its activities moreover balanced local preservation priorities between the large, elaborate house museums along Bellevue Avenue and the modest-scale, wood-frame colonial architecture that defines Newport's old-city character.

In addition to this significant physical contribution to Newport's urban fabric, the Foundation continues to play an important role in interpreting Newport history, both through

Newport History Tours, a walking tour program conducted in collaboration with Newport Historical Society, and the interpretation of its historic museum properties—Samuel Whitehorne House, Prescott Farm, and Rough Point.

The State Historic Preservation Awards, chosen by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission from nominations by the public, honor individuals, organizations, and projects for their contributions to the preservation of Rhode Island’s historic resources. Awards are presented in the categories of Stewardship, Advocacy, and Projects. The RIHPHC also bestows three special awards, for Volunteer Service, Professional Leadership, and Public Service.

The awards presentation kicks off the 23rd Annual Historic Preservation Conference, to take place on April 12 from 8:30 am to 6 pm at various locations in Southside and West Side Providence. Titled “Preservation Past, Present, and Future,” the day-long program will take the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RIHPHC as a starting point for exploring past achievements, current issues, and future directions of historic preservation in Rhode Island. Conference-goers will learn about evaluating and documenting New England’s Modern architecture, college and youth preservation programs, and Rhode Island’s landscape heritage, as well as a long list of other topics from preservation tax credit projects to grant opportunities to plans for the Cranston Street Armory. Bicycle, bus, and walking tours will showcase West Side and Southside neighborhoods, recreational areas, and rehabbed industrial buildings.

Pieter Roos, Executive Director of Newport Restoration Foundation, will speak at a conference session titled “Tales of Three Cities: Preservation by Community.” This session brings together representatives from Newport, Pawtucket, and the West Side of Providence to discuss how citizens, professionals, and visionaries embraced historic preservation to counter such threats as urban renewal, highway construction, and disinvestment beginning in the 1960s.

The conference is open to the public and costs \$40 to attend. The postmark deadline for

registration by mail is April 4; after that, attendees can register on site on April 12. To register or request more information, call **401-732-1009**, or visit our website

**www.preservation.ri.gov/conference.**

**PRESERVATION AWARDS DIGEST 2008:**

<b>Antoinette F. Downing</b> <b>Volunteer Service Award</b> Deming Sherman	<b>Frederick C. Williamson</b> <b>Professional Leadership Award</b> Cornelis de Boer
<b>John H. Chafee Public Service Award</b> Grow Smart Rhode Island	<b>Advocacy</b> West Broadway Neighborhood Association
<b>Stewardship</b> The Champlin Foundations	<b>Stewardship</b> Newport Restoration Foundation
<b>Project Awards</b> Rosedale Apartments (Cranston); Indian Spring (Newport); AS220 at the Dreyfus (Providence); Church of the Assumption (Providence); Hope Street School (Woonsocket)	
<b>Mill Rehabilitations</b> Slatersville Mill (North Smithfield); CVS Highlander Charter School/Providence CityArts (Providence); Monohasset Mill (Providence); Royal Mill (West Warwick)	

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