



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

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
May 10, 2006

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hoozeboom
Mr. John O'Brien, Chief of Statewide Planning
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Dr. Patricia Rubertone
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson representing Frederick C. Williamson, SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, National Register Assistant
Dr. Richard Greenwood, Principal Historian
Mr. Robert O. Jones, Senior Architectural Historian
Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director
Ms. Roberta Randall, Senior historical Architect
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Joseph Dias, representing Mr. Frederick Vincent, Acting Director DEM
Dr. James Garman, NR Review Board
Mr. Robert Goff
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Dr. Patrick Malone
Mr. Robert J. McKenna
State Building Commissioner

GUESTS

Mr. Edward Connors, NR consultant
Daniel Clayman, Montague Studio
David Kelleher
Tina Regan & Fred Stachura, TPC

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM. In the absence of Mr. Williamson, Mr. Hoogeboom chaired the meeting.

2. Minutes of March 8, 2006, meeting

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Hoogeboom, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of March 8, 2006.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) The Masonic Temple continues to proceed and expects to complete construction by December 31, 2006.

b) Planning continues for the reconstruction of the Ocean House Hotel in Watch Hill.

4. National Register Review Board

Final National Register Approvals

Pascoag Grammar School, 265 Sayles Avenue, Burrillville

Ms Kennedy presented information about the property, a well-preserved school building that retains its historic features: classrooms, auditorium, corridors, and wood trim. Constructed in 1917, the school reflects the development of the Town of Burrillville. Ms. Randall reported that the building is being converted into apartments for low and moderate-income tenants. As part of the historic rehabilitation project, the late 20th-century entrance will be removed and the original entrance will be restored. Following discussion, on a motion by Ms. Hagen, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, the Commission

VOTED unanimously final approval of the nomination.

Richmond Paper Company Mill, 310 Bourne Avenue, East Providence

Ms Kennedy presented information about the property. Development of the 13-acre site began in 1883-1887 when the Richmond Paper Company constructed a factory and began chemical pulping of wood for paper manufacture. This innovative manufacturing process was not a commercial success, and the property was sold to the American Electrical Company which produced insulated and braided electrical wire between 1893 and 1934. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Hebert, the Commission

VOTED unanimously final approval of the nomination.

Preliminary National Register Approvals

Artesian Well and Supply Company, 195-197 Anthony Street, East Providence

Mr. Emidy presented information about this property. The building dates to 1912, and it was expanded twice by 1927. The architecturally modest industrial building was the headquarters and garage for the Artesian Well and Supply Company, a company that worked in Florida and New York as well as Rhode Island. During discussion, several Commissioners noted that although the building is well preserved, its significance and the significance of the artesian well drilling industry in Rhode Island is undocumented. Mr. Cusack reported that he is aware of plans by the building's current owner to create a glass-blowing workshop. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Cusack, the Commission requested additional information and

VOTED unanimously that the National Register level of significance of the property has not been demonstrated by the currently available information.

Watson House, 365 Moonstone Beach Road, South Kingstown

Mr. Jones presented information about this property, a south-facing, 4-bay, center chimney farmhouse. Interior details such as oversized girts and a closed string stair with sawn balusters suggest that the dwelling may date to the early 18th-century as a single-cell structure, and that later in the 18th century it was enlarged. The owner reports finding early clay pipe stems, shoes, and fabric within structural spaces. Commissioner Morenon suggested that the surrounding landscape be evaluated for potential historical archaeology. Contemporary changes include replacement of the front entrance, and changes to a side porch and windows. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Rubertone, the Commission

VOTED unanimously preliminary approval.

6. Other business: There was no other business.

7. Next meeting date: The next regular meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, April 12, 2006.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Minutes recorded by,

Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer