



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

Telephone 401-222-2678
TTY 401-222-3700

Fax 401-222-2968
www.preservation.ri.gov

MINUTES

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION
September 12, 2007

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Goff
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board
Mr. Karst Hooeboom
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon
Dr. Ronald Onorato
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn, Asso. Dir
Mr. Jean Rondeau
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, Chairman & SHPO

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, National Register Assistant
Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, Heritage Aide
Dr. Paul Robinson, Principal Archaeologist
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director
Mr. Wm. McKenzie Woodward, Principal Architectural Historian
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Sr. Special Projects Coordinator

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Mr. Joseph Dias, representing Dr. Michael Sullivan, Director DEM
Dr. James Garman, NR Review Board
Mr. Saul Kaplan, Executive Director, EDC
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner
Dr. Patrick Malone
Dr. Patricia Rubertone

GUESTS

Mr. Michael Hogan, House Policy Office
Suzanne McDonald, Ogden Farm
Harry L. Cohoon, Pocasset Cemetery
Dan Peloquin & Patricia Nee, French Worsted Mill
Quinn Stuart & Jenny Fields, PAL

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M., Mr. Williamson, presiding.

2. Minutes of July 11, 2007, meeting

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of July 11, 2007.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) The FY 2009 State Budget request will be submitted shortly. As always, the Budget Office gives RIHPHC a "budget target" that must be met in the agency's budget request. As usual, the budget target is less than the amount of funds needed to support a current services level. We expect to negotiate the difference during the Fall, and hopefully the Governor will ultimately recommend level funding for the RIHPHC.

b) Sarah Zurier reported that from 2003 to 2006, 89 State Preservation Grants have been awarded, and 39 of the projects are complete. For 2007, 36 applications were received from 19 towns. Applications requested \$2 million in grant funds (\$1 million is available) and the total costs of all 36 projects is \$12 million.

c) Mercedes Monteiro reported on the Heritage Festival held on the State House Lawn on August 25.

d) Jeff Emidy has been appointed Project Review Coordinator. He replaces Dr. Richard Greenwood who resigned to accept a teaching position at Roger Williams University.

e) Paul Robinson reported on the current status of the Salt Ponds Archaeological Site. The owner, CRMC, RIHPHC, and representatives of the Trust for Public Lands have had discussions, and no regulatory action or legal proceeding is pending at this time. We informed Governor Carcieri and DEM Director Michael Sullivan about the Commission's advisory to CRMC, and we are keeping the Attorney General briefed.

f) Ted Sanderson will join six other U.S. historic preservation leaders selected by the French-American Foundation to study historic preservation in France, September 22 to 29. The study tour is sponsored by the French Ministry of Culture and will include meeting with French preservation officials and site visits.

4. National Register of Historic Places

Final Nominations

Weybosset Mill Complex, vicinity of Dike Street, Providence

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the worsted mill complex constructed beginning in 1865 with expansions in 1890 to the 1930s. The site was the location of John Waterman's 1830 cotton mill, but it was replaced as Olneyville became a major center of worsted wool production. Rhode Island Governor Royal C. Taft was President of the Weybosset Mill company. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

French Worsted Company Complex, 153 Hamlet Avenue, Woonsocket

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the worsted mill complex constructed in 1906 following designs by architect Walter Fontaine with expansions in the 1920s. French and Belgian investors were attracted to the local French-speaking workers available in Woonsocket, and the City provided a 15-year exemption from property taxes as an incentive for the development. An interesting feature of the mill is its rope transmission power drive system. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Rondeau, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

Greystone Mill Village Historic District, North Providence

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the mill village that surrounds Greystone Worsted Mill (previously listed on the National Register). In the first decade of the 20th century, English investors seeking to avoid U.S. tariffs on imported woolens recruited English workers to move to Greystone. The company built houses and in 1911 constructed Whitehall (on Waterman Avenue) to house a community center, auditorium, chapel, and post office. The location of Greystone Village had been the site of earlier Waterman cotton mills, and two early 19th-century houses remain as part of Greystone Village. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Grosvenor, seconded by Ms. Hagen, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

Murphy House at Ogden Farm, 641 Mitchell's Lane, Middletown

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the Queen Anne Revival style dwelling built at the turn of the 20th century. Dennis J. Murphy ran a livery stable in Newport and operated truck-farms that served the Newport market. In 1895 he purchased Ogden Farm and shortly

thereafter built this house for his family. The farm buildings do not survive, and farm acreage has been subdivided from the parcel and preserved as open space. The house is a well-preserved vernacular example of its type with patterned-shingle exterior cladding, side-hall plan, double-parlor, and modest but intact trim elements. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Ms. Hagen, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

Preliminary Consideration

Pocasset Cemetery, off Dyer Avenue, Cranston

Mr. Woodward presented information about this garden cemetery laid out in 1876 following designs by Niles B. Shubarth. The site had been used as a landscape nursery in the 1820s and 1830s, and the cemetery incorporates mature specimen trees. The cemetery lays along the Pocasset River that branches from the Pawtuxet, and unpaved winding paths and lanes separate burial areas. Funerary sculpture is typical in design and execution and well-preserved. There are no significant intrusions on the historic cemetery, and it retains a pastoral character. Following discussion, on a motion by Mr. Hoozeboom, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval.

5. Other business:

There was no other business.

6. Next meeting date: The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, September 12, 2007.

7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

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