



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

## RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION December 12, 2007

### I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Goff  
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan  
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom  
Dr. Patrick Malone  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Assoc. Dir. of Statewide Planning representing Chief Kevin Flynn  
Mr. Jean Rondeau  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson representing Frederick C. Williamson, Chairman & SHPO

### STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director  
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, Heritage Aide  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director  
Mr. Wm. McKenzie Woodward, Principal Architectural Historian

### GUESTS

Mr. Michael Hogan, House Policy Office  
Mr. Edward Connors, Mr. Zachary Miller, Mr. Clark Schoettle, Stone House Inn

### MEMBERS ABSENT

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

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 A.M.

### 2. Minutes of November 14, 2007 meeting

On a motion by Mr. Hoozeboom, seconded by Ms. Hagan, the Commission

VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of November 14, 2007.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson reported on the announcement of State Preservation Grants on December 7 at Roger Williams Park Museum of Natural History. He thanked Commissioners Goff, Hoozeboom, and Onorato for their attendance at the event. Several Commissioners offered suggestions for a 2008 State Preservation Grants Bond Issue.

### 4. National Register of Historic Places

#### Final Nominations

#### Stone House Inn, 122 Sakonnet Point Road, Little Compton

Mr. Woodward presented information about the property that was built about 1854 by David Sisson who worked for the Fall River Iron Works Company and had textile interests. The unusual stone structure was apparently constructed as a single family house, and historical photographs and physical evidence documents two-story gallery porches on all four sides of the building. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house was converted to use as an Inn, with additions to the north and west. Interior features include the original curved staircase, fireplaces, and a dining room remodeled with paneling in the 1880s. The "Tap Room", a bar and restaurant created in the 1930s is located in the cellar; notable among its Colonial Revival treatments are paneled walls, a rustic stone fireplace and wooden booths at each end of the low-ceilinged room. The 1880s barn was converted to use as a space for social functions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

During discussion, the Owner, Zackery Miller, reported on plans to rehabilitate the Stone House Inn, including restoration of the porches. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Goff, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

### Preliminary Consideration

#### Peace Dale Historic District Boundary Increase, South Kingstown

Ms. Kennedy presented information about Peace Dale Historic District that is already listed on the National Register, including the mill, community buildings, and residential areas. In the 1850s, Peacedale's most prominent citizen, Roland Hazard II who was responsible for much of the village's development, established a community cemetery. The gravestones are typical of the period, and the cemetery does not possess outstanding buildings, sculpture, or landscape design. However, the cemetery is representative of the many civic improvement projects sponsored by Roland Hazard, is a significant element in the overall development of Peace Dale Village, and its simplicity and social inclusiveness is illustrative of the broad pattern of Village social life. The cemetery is located very near the current historic district boundary.

Several blocks of commercial buildings known as "The Peace Dale Flats" lie just outside the original historic district boundary, and town planners have asked RIHPHC for an opinion on whether the area might be eligible as an amendment to the National Register Historic District. Ms. Kennedy showed slides of the Flats' very modest, vernacular commercial structures, most of which have been significantly altered. The Flats was not developed by the Hazard Family; in fact, the area may have developed in reaction to Hazard efforts to restrict commercial development at Peace Dale.

During discussion, Commissioners noted that the cemetery appears to be part of the overall Peace Dale development and Hazard patronage. On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval to add the cemetery to the Peace Dale Historic District nomination.

During continued discussion, Commissioners noted that the Flats appears not to be part of the overall Peace Dale development and Hazard patronage, and most of the buildings are deteriorated and altered. On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to withhold preliminary approval to add the Flats to the Peace Dale Historic District nomination based on the information currently available and the lack of physical integrity. The Commission would be willing to consider new information, if provided, about the historical context of the Flats and the potential for historical rehabilitation of the structures.

#### Maine Creamery/HP Hood Plant, 395 Promenade Street, Providence

Ms. Kennedy presented information about 1917 ice cream factory. The Maine Creamery was started in 1898 and constructed the Promenade Street plant in 1917 for the manufacture and wholesale marketing of ice cream. In 1927 the Maine Creamery was sold to the HP Hood ice cream company, who remained in business until the 1970s. The complex consists of a two-story

front office and a long manufacturing facility to the rear. A later 1980s greenhouse further to the rear does not contribute to the historical significance. The Commission has recently given preliminary approval for commercial ice cream factories dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries on Plainfield Street, and it appears that ice cream production has connections to several historical developments in Rhode Island: dairy farming, transportation, technology, and social life. During discussion, Commissioners noted that the context for understanding the history of ice cream manufacturing in Rhode Island remains to be documented; a successful National Register nomination would have to provide a research basis for evaluation of significance.

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Malone, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for the Maine Creamery.

6. Other business:

There was no other business.

7. Next meeting date: The next meeting of the Commission will be Wednesday, January 9, 2008.

8. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:15 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

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