



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 January 9, 2008

I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack
Mr. Robert Goff
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan
Mr. Karst Hoogeboom
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

Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Deputy Director
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, Heritage Aide
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director

GUESTS

Mr. Michael Hogan, House Policy Office
Ms. Joanna Doherty, NR Consultant (Jennys Lane NR)
Ms. Elizabeth Warren, Barrington Preservation Society
Ms. Virginia Adams & Elizabeth Porterfield, PAL (Park Place NR)

MEMBERS ABSENT

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

II. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 A.M.

2. Minutes of December 12, 2007 meeting

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

VOTED unanimously to approve the Minutes of December 12, 2007.

3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson reported that the historic Providence Fruit and Produce Warehouse on Harris Avenue was threatened by a City of Providence demolition order. The property was transferred by the RIDOT to Carpiionato Properties a year ago with the requirement that the building be rehabilitated subject to RIHPHC review and approval.

b) A summary of the RIHPHC staff annual work program was distributed and discussed.

c) Copies of a guide for controlling lead hazards in historic homes was distributed. RIHPHC staff member Sarah Zurier worked on the project with Housing and Health officials.

4. National Register of Historic Places

Final Nominations

Jennys Lane Historic DistrictHistoric District, Barrington

Ms. Kennedy provided information about Jennys Lane-Mathewson Road Historic District. The district reflects Barrington's transition from agriculture in the early 1800s to become a suburban enclave by the turn of the twentieth century with railroad service to Providence. Most of the district's houses date from the 1880s to the 1920s. Well-preserved residential architecture, lawns, gardens, and tree-lined streets maintain a strong sense of historic place. The nomination was prepared by PAL consultants Joanna Doherty and Mary Kate Harrington in association with the Barrington Preservation Society and property owners.

During discussion, Elizabeth Warren noted that one of the few new houses within the district occupies the site where an older house was town down. Following further discussion, on a motion by Mr. Grosvenor, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the nomination.

Preliminary Consideration

Park Place Historic District, Pawtucket

Ms. Kennedy presented information about the Park Place area, centered on Wilkinson Park (1871), a small linear island of grass and trees that also includes the 1897 monument "Liberty Arming the Patriot" (previously listed on the National Register as outdoor sculpture). Several large houses and civic buildings front on the park, including St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1901) (previously listed on the National Register), the 1823 Jonathan Baker House which has been altered on the interior, and Church Hill Grammar School (1889). Some of the buildings at the Main Street end of the proposed historic district have significant alterations, and there are several vacant lots used for parking that represent gaps in the historic streetscape.

During discussion, Commissioners noted that while some of the buildings retain historical character, alterations to other buildings and loss of some buildings diminish the historical integrity of the proposed district. Furthermore, sufficient historical research has not been performed to explain the area's historical development and its relationship to the development of the surrounding city. On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED its opinion that the potential National Register eligibility of Park Place remains to be documented. Recognizing that the area possesses local historical and architectural interest, the Commission expressed concern about gaps in the overall integrity of the proposed district, and the Commission noted the need for detailed and compelling historical research to show how the surviving physical fabric relates to the Church Hill Historic District, the Downtown Historic District, or other elements of the surrounding city.

Church Hill School, Park Place, Pawtucket

Ms. Kennedy explained that the private owner of the vacant Church Hill School has requested the Commission's preliminary evaluation of the school building for individual National Register eligibility. The School was designed by noted architect William R. Walker in 1889. It is a handsome brick school building and retains generally intact corridors, classrooms, and plan. The school never had an assembly space or a library. On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for nomination of Church Hill School.

5. There was no other business.
6. Next meeting date: Next meeting date: Wednesday, February 13, 2008.
7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

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