



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

RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION  
October 14, 2009

#### I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Goff  
Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
Mr. Karst Hooeboom  
Dr. Patrick Malone  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Dr. Patricia Rubertone  
Mr. Frederick C. Williamson, Chairman & SHPO

#### STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director  
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, National Register Assistant  
Mr. Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director  
Ms. Sarah Zurier, Sr. Special Projects Coordinator

#### GUESTS

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack  
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA  
Mr. Bradford Kopp  
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan  
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner  
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn  
Mr. J. Michael Saul, Interim Executive Director, EDC  
Dr. Michael Sullivan, Director DEM

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Minutes of September 9, 2009

On a motion by Mr. Hoozeboom, seconded by Mr. Goff, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the Minutes of September 9, 2009.

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) 2009 State Historic Preservation Awards will be presented on Thursday, October 29 at 5:30 PM at the Preservation Celebration! at Hope Artiste Village in Pawtucket. Commissioners are urged to attend.

b) RIHPHC staff toured the historic Nathan Bishop School renovation, and as authorized by the Commission vote in September, the project has been added to the list of 2009 Awards.

c) The next Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday November 18 (not on the Veterans Day Holiday November 11).

### 4. National Register of Historic Places

#### Preliminary Approval

##### Pocasset Worsted Mill, Johnston

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the property. The mill complex was developed in the 1890s by Charles Fletcher of Providence and founder of the American Woolen Company. The mill buildings are good examples of their type: "slow-burning" heavy timber framing sheathed in brick. The complex includes mills #1 and #2, an office, boiler house, chimney stack and engine house, and water tank. The complex is set in "Thorton Village" that provided housing for skilled English weavers and Italian immigrant laborers. The property is significant for industrial architecture and as a representative example of the early expansion of the worsted cloth manufacturing industry that was centered nearby in Providence's Olneyville neighborhood. The larger mill village may also be eligible for the National Register but is not included in the current nomination proposal. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Malone, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for the proposed nomination.

##### State Home & School, RI College Campus, Providence

Dr. Greenwood introduced RIHPHC intern and RI College senior Elizabeth Warburton

who presented information about the property. In 1885, the State acquired the former George Chapin Estate in Providence's Mount Pleasant section and set up an institution to care for orphan children separate from adult almshouses. The Children's Home incorporated existing estate buildings and constructed residential "cottages" with the intention of creating a homelike environment for the wards. Undeveloped estate land was cultivated into the 1930s. Renamed the O'Rourke Center, (1947-1979) most of the original children's' cottages were replaced, although Cottage "C" and the Chapin mansion have been preserved. Historic landscape features also remain, and archaeological investigations have recovered cultural artifacts associated with the history of the property. Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Rubertone, seconded by Dr. Onorato, the Commission unanimously

VOTED preliminary approval for the proposed nomination.

#### Final Presentation

##### Church Hill School, Park Place, Pawtucket

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the property. The Church Hill Grammar School was constructed in 1889–1890 and replaced an original two-story, wood-frame Church Hill schoolhouse built on the site in 1841. The notable Providence architects William R. Walker & Son designed the Queen Anne-style school, which was constructed of brick with a cross-gable roof and a large square bell tower. The interior stairhall and corridors and the three-classroom-per-floor plan remain largely intact with original beadboard wainscoting, plaster walls, and original staircases. The building was a grammar school until 1949, and then served as a school administration building until approximately 2006. The Church Hill Grammar School is significant at the local level under National Register of Historic Places eligibility Criteria A and C in the areas of education and architecture. Under Criterion A, the building possesses important historical associations with the history and development of the public school system of Pawtucket and the trends and changes in public school education that evolved during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Under Criterion C, the building exemplifies the structure and design of a late-nineteenth-century public school building, as schoolhouses transitioned from smaller wood-framed structures to larger modern facilities with improved heating, ventilation, and lighting. It is one of the remaining works of the prolific Providence architecture firm of William R. Walker & Son, who designed civic, religious, educational, and institutional buildings throughout Rhode Island. The period of significance begins in 1889 when the building was constructed and ends in 1949.

Following discussion, on a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Dr. Morenon, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to approve the proposed nomination.

5. Other Business  
There was no other business.

6. Next meeting date: Wednesday November 18, 2009.
7. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

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