



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

## RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION November 10, 2010

### I. MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert E. Cusack  
Mr. Robert Goff  
Mr. John Grosvenor, AIA  
Ms. Patrice O'Malley Hagan  
Mr. Karst Hoozeboom  
Dr. Ronald Onorato  
Edward F. Sanderson, SHPO

### STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director  
Ms. Mercedes Monteiro, National Register Assistant

### GUESTS

Mr. Edward Connors, Consultant to First National Development Corp.  
Ms. Aurora Leigh, First National Development Corp.  
Ms. Adriana Thomas, House Policy Office

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Michael Hebert, NR Review Board  
John P. Leyden, State Building Commissioner  
Dr. Patrick Malone  
Dr. E. Pierre Morenon  
Mr. Jared L. Rhodes, Chief of Statewide Planning representing Kevin Flynn, Asso. Dir  
Dr. Patricia Rubertone  
Mr. Keith Stokes, Executive Director, EDC  
Dr. Michael Sullivan, Director DEM  
1 Vacant

## II. AGENDA

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was convened at 9:35 A.M. Mr. Hoogeboom chaired the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of September 8, 2010

On a motion by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously VOTED to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2010.

On a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously VOTED to approve the Minutes of Minutes of October 13, 2010

### 3. Executive Director's Report

a) Mr. Sanderson reported that Governor Carcieri has designated him to serve as State Historic Preservation Officer in place of Fred Williamson.

### 4. Election of Officers

The Commission conducted an election to fill the vacancy in the chairmanship created by the demise of Frederick C. Williamson. Upon a motion by Dr. Onorato, seconded by Mr. Grosvenor, the Commission unanimously

VOTED to elect Mr. Hoogeboom Chairman.

### 5. National Register of Historic Places

#### Reconsideration: Church Hill Industrial District Amendment

Dr. Greenwood presented information about the recent destructive fire at the Union Wadding complex, one of the contributing resources of the Church Hill Industrial District Amendment. The amended district had received its final approval from the Review Board in February 2010 but had not yet been sent to the Keeper. As a result of the fire, approximately one half of the Union Wadding complex had been removed on the west side. One building, Building 20, had received some damage in the fire and has been analyzed for the First National Development Corp. to determine whether or not it could be repaired. Dr. Greenwood requested the Review Board's reevaluation of the amendment's National Register eligibility and in particular whether the remaining Union Wadding complex continued to contribute to the larger

### Church Hill Industrial District.

The Union Wadding Company complex had suffered several fires in its history, including one in 1870 that required an extensive rebuilding. Functionally, the buildings reflected a manufacturing process that progressed through the complex in a generally east to west direction. The company was engaged in frequent modifications of the complex and buildings were often reworked as manufacturing functions shifted from building to building. The nature of manufacturing process – primarily successive stages of picking and carding fiber followed by bleaching and finishing – did not produce a high degree of differentiation between buildings or any distinctive building types. Dr. Onorato noted that despite the loss, the manufacturing complex retained its historical significance and the character of the complex was still intact at the eastern end.

Further discussion focused on the boundary of the district amendment and the possible need for revision. The Review Board noted the historic role the railroad had played in the development of the district and the fact that the rail line originally ran where Goff Street is today before shifting to the current alignment to the north. Ms. Aurora Leigh also provided the information that a single legal lot contained both the burned buildings and the majority of the surviving ones.

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

VOTED that the surviving buildings of the Union Wadding Company retain historical significance and the Review Board voted to approve the National Register nomination for Church Hill Industrial District Amendment as revised to reflect the loss of buildings from the 2010 fire.

Ms. Leigh speaking as the representative of the owners expressed the owners' support for the continued historical rehabilitation of the complex and their wish to retain and rehabilitate Building 20.

### 6. 2011 Annual Work Program

The Commission voted to defer the full consideration of the Annual Work Program until next meeting but engaged in a short discussion about the current development of a revised Statewide Preservation Plan that would incorporate the relevant findings from Preservation Is Local.

Dr. Onorato raised a question about the current status of the study of Providence Buildings of the Recent Past. Dr. Greenwood reported that the fieldwork has been completed and that staff architectural historian Mack Woodward has been assigned to draft a statewide evaluation of the architecture of the modern period.

### 7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Next meeting date: Wednesday December 8, 2010.
9. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Minutes recorded by,

Edward F. Sanderson, Executive Director