

PREFACE

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission was established in 1968 by an act of the General Assembly to develop a state preservation program under the aegis of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, United States Department of the Interior. Citizen members of the Commission are appointed by the Governor; serving as ex-officio members are the Director of the Department of Economic Development, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management, the Chief of the Division of Statewide Planning, the State Building Code Commissioner, and the Chairmen of the House and Senate Finance Committees of the General Assembly. The Director of the Department of Community Affairs has been appointed by the Governor as the State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island.

The Historical Preservation Commission is charged with the responsibilities of: conducting a statewide survey of historic sites and places and, from the survey, recommending places of local, state, or national significance for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places; administering federal grants-in-aid to National Register properties for acquisition or development; and developing a state historic preservation plan. Additional duties include: compiling and maintaining a State Register of Historic Places; assisting state and municipal agencies in the area of historic preservation by undertaking special project review studies; the certification of rehabilitation projects under the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the review of federal, state, and municipal projects which may affect cultural resources; and regulating archeological exploration on state lands and under waters of state jurisdiction.

The Rhode Island statewide historical survey, inaugurated in 1969, has been designed to locate, identify, map, and report on buildings, sites, areas, and objects of historical and architectural value. During the survey, consideration is given to the total environment of the area being studied. In addition to outstanding structures and historical sites, buildings of all periods and styles which constitute the fabric of a community are recorded and evaluated.

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