



The East Providence Historical Society

Gazette

October 2021

Volume XXXIV No. 2

October

Sunday, October 10

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

1:30 pm

Hikes at Hunts

Meet at the Gazebo

1:30 pm

Rumford Junction Band

2:30 pm

Story Hour at Hunt Henge

November

**EP Veterans Memorial
Expressway**

Re-dedication

Saturday, November 6

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Pierce Memorial Stadium:

Antique Car Parade

Sunday, November 7

12:45 - 1:00 pm

Dedication of Andrews

Brothers Memorial Exit

Sunday, November 14

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Hunt House Museum open

**Dedicated to Preserving the Heritage and Enjoying the
History of Our City**

President's Letter

by Cheryl Faria and Jeff Faria, Co-Presidents

We're now heading into our fall season and continue to have lots of wonderful things going on! Here are some of the highlights.

John Hunt House Museum

We received a generous grant from the Champlin Foundation that provided funds for us to use to paint the Museum, replace windows in the Museum and rebuild windows in the Garden Center. Under the leadership of Paul T. Barnum, our Buildings Chair, the repainting of the Museum is now successfully complete. Thank you, Paul, for your attentive stewardship of these projects!!



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Historical Society

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OFFICERS

Cheryl Faria/Jeff Faria *Co-Presidents*
Deborah Ormerod *1st Vice President*
Eric Underhill *Recording Secretary*
Dorothy Thornley *Treasurer*
Pat Henry *Corresponding Secretary*

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Deborah Ormerod *Curator*
Open *Education*
Leslie Tente *Events*
Cheryl Faria *Finance*
Jeffrey Faria *Grounds*
Sandra Turgeon *Marker Program*
Miriam Kenney/Carole DiFabio *Membership*
Nancy Allen *Museum*
Reinhard Wohlgemuth *Newsletter*
Nancy Moore *Preservation*
Nancy Moore *Programs*
Nancy Moore *Publicity*
Deborah Ormerod *Website Manager*

**The East Providence
Historical Society**

is dedicated to preserving the heritage
and enjoying the history of our city.

**If you are not a member we
invite you to join now.**

Annual dues are \$25 individual, \$35
family or business, or a Life
Membership for \$250.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

and mail membership form to

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916-4774

EP Veterans Memorial Expressway Re-dedication

November 1-12

City Hall display sponsored by EP Historical Society

Saturday, Nov 6 – 1:00-3:00 pm

Pierce Memorial Stadium: Antique Car Parade

Formal re-dedication ceremony for bridge memorial signs and the EP Veterans Memorial Expressway (aka 195). The AP Hoyt School tower bell will be rung during the ceremony (AP Hoyt was demolished in building the Expressway)

Presentation of the EP Military Service Honor Roll to the City. (This Honor Roll can be accessed at ephist.org.)

Meet and thank EP veterans and military members.** Please bring donations of new fall clothing and gift cards to assist our veterans.**

Sunday, Nov. 7 – 12:45-1:00 pm

Dedication of Andrews Brothers Memorial Exit – Broadway/ 195 / Freeborn Avenue

1:00-3:00 pm

Visitation to any/all memorial signs along the Expressway. Details of sign locations to be published in the EP Post and at the Nov. 6 ceremony.



Membership Form

New

Renewal/Change

Name(s): _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family/Business

\$250 Life

President's Letter

Continued from page 1

We've also continued to feature 'Children's Day at the Museum' activities. Beverly Pettine leads interactive colonial activities in the Children's Room of the Museum from 1-2:30 pm and a Story Time under the big tree behind the Museum at 2:30 pm. Jack Richer and Nancy Moore engage children in playing colonial games on the lawn in front of the museum.



Case Cemetery

As we were heading out of town on Newport Ave, we were astonished at the transformation taking place at the old Case Cemetery (next to where Uncle Tony's used to be). The trees were being removed and piles of earth stood everywhere. By the time we returned 10 days later, there was no sign of the woods which had grown up over the 100 years that the Case stood as an empty lot. Some of you may remember that an infrared ground survey was done a few years ago and more bodies were found. After those remains were carefully re-interred, the casket handles, etc were put in boxes and given to the HS archives. We hear that apartments and retail will fill the space.

Hunt's Mills Community Gardens

"Growing your own food is like printing your own money."

Ron Finley - Director:
Bronx Community Garden

The gardens continue to flourish and on Saturday, September 18, we hosted ten URI Master Gardeners at the Museum. Count Rumford and Cheryl Faria gave a tour of the Museum, the Education Center, the Garden Center, and the 26 raised bed gardens.



Phillipsdale Man Wins Coveted Preservation Award

Congratulations to our own Ned Connors for being awarded the 2021 Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award. Ned is a leading industrial preservation consultant and was a key player in the 2017 RI Preservation Conference, guiding tours at Phillipsdale Landing. Check out the Preservation Awards announcement for more of Ned's bio and to get your ticket to the awards event.

www.preserveri.org/rhodyawards

Historic District Commission

Do you like informational meetings, decision making, learning about this area's history and how a group can impact the future? You may be a great candidate for a spot on the EP HDC! The group meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at City Hall and is overseen by the Planning Department's Patrick Hanner. Find out more by contacting him at PHanner@eastprovidenceri.gov

Preservation Updates

ProJo: Walking RI

EP's own Turner Reservoir is featured this week (Sept 19) as John Kostrzewa's *Walk of the Week* in the Sunday paper. He mentions the Newman Oak and historic Bridgham Farm along with natural sites. Check out his 2 page article/photos. Does he know about *Hikes at Hunt's*?

Continued on page 4

Preservation Updates

Continued from page 3

3 Sisters Garden

The season has nearly ended for the 3 Sisters garden. You can see by the photo that the garden filled in well with the corn a dominant feature for the whole community garden. The maize is well dried and should grind easily. The purple corn is stunning! We have not eaten anything but will dry the bean seeds for next year and save corn seeds for cornmeal. The squash is still maturing but we have Dakota and butternut. We have learned a lot from this first attempt. Thanks to Elsie, Dot, Nancy, Katie and her family, and the team from the Boys/Girls Club for caring for the plot this summer.



Sowams Art Exhibit at Weaver

Ruth Majors, a well known local artist, has loaned the Sowams Heritage Area group two of her paintings for viewing at area libraries. The oils have been at Weaver since September 1 and will spend October in Barrington. Ruth painted the portrait of Massasoit Ossamequin in 2019 and the painting of Ossamequin's winter village in 2020. Both works have been meticulously researched and the detail in each is very fine. Learn more about both paintings and watch a short video at the Sowams Heritage Area/late August site.



Historic Public School Survey

CITYWIDE SURVEY OF HISTORIC PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS EAST PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Final Project Report August 31, 2021

Kathryn J. Cavanaugh
Historic Preservation Consultant



As our buildings age and are replaced, as we have just experienced with the former high school building, it reminds us that we need to document the remainder. Sometimes there are enough buildings of sufficient history to make up a "thematic historic nomination" and in March, the City, through a grant from the National Park Service, commissioned historic preservation consultant Kathryn J. Cavanaugh to produce an application for 19 school buildings to the National Park Service, US Dept of the Interior. (Kathy spent some time in the attic at Hunt house with our extensive school archives.) Her recommendation and parts of her report follow. We will publish 2-3 portions over the course of the next year. If you would like to read the entire 73 page report now, please go to our website ephist.org. This is an auspicious new beginning for our older students as they enter a high school building which is elegant, functional and sets the historic standard for the future.

Introduction

In March of 2021, the City of East Providence commissioned a historic architectural survey of twenty current and former public-school buildings, for the purpose of gathering sufficient information about each building to evaluate its potential eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Field work and research were conducted during the Spring of 2021. For each school building, exterior photographs and data sheets were produced according to Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission standards. The project also produced a narrative statement describing the historical development of public education in East Providence and how changes in school building architecture over time reflected corresponding changes in public policy for education.

The twenty schools researched for this survey were all built as public schools by the Town or City of East Providence. In chronological order and identified by their historic names, they are:

Union Primary and Grammar School, 1320 Pawtucket Ave. (1873-74)
 East Street Primary School, 65 East St. (1889-90)
 Williams Avenue Primary School, 115 Williams Ave. (1888-90)
 Central High School & Junior High School, 20 Whelden Ave. (1910, 1929)
 Riverside Grammar School/Junior High School, 100 Bullocks Point Ave. (1911)
 Lincoln School, 25 Metropolitan Park Dr. (1924)
 East Providence Senior High School, 2000 Pawtucket Ave. (1950-52)
 Carl T. Thompson Elementary School, 215 Ferris Ave. (1950)
 J.R.D. Oldham Elementary School, 640 Bullocks Pt. Ave. (1951)
 Alice M. Waddington Elementary School, 101 Legion Way (1955)
 Grove Ave. Elementary School, 110 Grove Ave. (1957-58)
 Emma G. Whiteknacht School, 261 Grosvenor Ave. (1957-58)
 Agnes B. Hennessey Elementary School, 75 Fort St. (1957-58)
 Meadowcrest Elementary School, 60 Bart Dr. (1964)
 Riverside Jr. High/Middle School, 179 Forbes St. (1964-66)
 Silver Spring Elementary School, 120 Silver Spring Ave. (1968)
 Orlo Avenue Elementary School, 25 Orlo Ave. (1970)
 East Providence Area Vocational-Technical School, 1998 Pawtucket Ave. (1970)
 Edward R. Martin Middle School, 111 Brown St. (1977)
 Kent Heights Elementary School, 2680 Pawtucket Ave. (1989, 2003)

Recommendations

The nineteen surviving historic public schools constructed in East Providence between 1862 and 1970 collectively represent over a century of municipal school planning and design, guided by prevailing educational pedagogies and architectural trends of the time. They also represent the generations of teachers, educational reformers, public officials, architects, and citizens who believed that public education had the power to change lives for the better, not just for students but for the larger community, in part through the design and appearance of school buildings. The buildings themselves have multiple layers of significance: in their architectural features and integrity, which present a strong sense of place and time; in being a civic icons and sources of community pride; and in the important role that public schools played both in the city's history and in the personal histories of the thousands of students who have passed through their doors since 1862. A thematic nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is recommended.

Historic Context Statement: Public Education in East Providence

The history of East Providence spans two states, three towns, and nearly four centuries, beginning with the settlement of Rehoboth, Mass. in 1643 and carrying forward through the founding of Seekonk, Mass., which separated from Rehoboth in 1812. Fifty years later, the

U.S. Supreme Court resolved a long-standing boundary dispute between Rhode Island and Massachusetts by moving the state line a few miles east of the Seekonk River, bringing the western half of Seekonk into Rhode Island. This area of about 13 square miles was incorporated as the town of East Providence, Rhode Island in 1862. The town became a city in 1958.

In providing for public education, Massachusetts and Rhode Island followed different paths in the 17th and 18th centuries. Those paths began to run along parallel tracks by the early 19th century; nonetheless, when East Providence inherited an existing public school system from Seekonk in 1862, the transition presented some challenges.

This narrative begins with an explanation of how public education evolved in Massachusetts and in Rhode Island prior to 1862, and then focuses on East Providence's public school system and architecture from 1862 to 1970. During that period, East Providence built 47 primary, elementary, grammar, junior high, and high school buildings. Nineteen survive, each reflecting the prevailing educational paradigms and architectural design principles and styles of their time.

This is the first installment of excerpts from the report by Kathryn J. Cavanaugh, more to follow in upcoming issues of the Gazette. Check our website for the complete report.



Seekonk District 2 School in 1850, in what is now Rumford in East Providence.

Historian's Circle Giving Levels

- Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+
- Crescent Park: \$500+
- Vanity Fair Park: \$200+
- Boyden Heights Park: \$100+
- Friends: \$25+

Please apply my gift to:

- Annual Fund
- Endowment
- Split between the two

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Gift enclosed: _____

PayPal

Visa MasterCard Amex

CC# _____

EXP _____ SEC CODE _____

Signature: _____



Please place your phone camera over this PayPal bar code for payment.

Please make your checks payable to the East Providence Historical Society.

The East Providence Historical Society is a 501©(3) and all donations are fully tax deductible.

EP Historical Society Annual Fund

Thank you to those who gave to our annual Fund last year. Your generous gifts were used to help meet our goals in the 2021 calendar year. Thank you to those who are considering a donation this year! **See the list of what your gift will support in calendar year 2022.**

General Operating Support

- Operating expenses of the John Hunt House Museum.
- Maintain and host monthly Open Houses at the John Hunt House Museum and Education Center.
- Provide monthly educational programs for adults and children.

Thanks to a generous bequest of \$5,000 from Len Iannacone's estate the first \$2,000 in endowment donations will be matched 1:1! So your gift of \$50 becomes \$100, \$100 becomes \$200 etc.

Endowment Goals

- Raise \$100,000 over three years.
- Annual draw to offset costs and hire a part-time employee.
- Endowment gifts matched 1:1 for the first \$2,000.

The 2021 Historian's Circle

Thank you to those who donated to our 2020 Annual Fund. With your Historian's Circle gift, you helped the Historical Society meet our goals for the 2021 calendar year. Gifts given in 2021 will go towards our 2022 annual, strategic and endowment goals. Thank you to those who have already made a gift!

Hunt's Mills Park: \$1,000+

P.T. Barnum and Patricia I. Anthony

Crescent Park: \$500-\$999

Woods Heating Service

Vanity Fair Park: \$200-\$499

Colin Kane

Boyden Heights Park: \$100-\$199

Patricia C. Birkes
Ed and Paula Serowick

Friends: \$25-\$99

James Robert Boyd, Jr.
Jane Poland
Bonney B. Sevellon
Jean and Gary Zunda

Thank You!!

If there are any errors or omissions on this list, please let Cheryl Faria know so we can correct it for the next issue of the Gazette.
401-419-8682
cherylafaria@verizon.net

Gardening Tips

By Jeff Faria, Master Gardener

- Fall is a great time to reseed lawns and plant perennials. Many garden centers discount plants at this time of year so you can find bargains. Keep them well watered through the fall until a hard frost.
- When harvesting winter squash and pumpkins, leave at least 2 inches of stem to extend their storage life.
- Seed spinach, radish, lettuce, carrots and onion sets now for late fall or early spring harvest.
- Plant individual cloves of garlic before the October full moon for next year. I still have plenty of garlic, if anyone wants some. Contact me!
- Planting a cover crop, such as annual ryegrass or even peas, will help retain nutrients and you can till them under next spring.
- Divide spring blooming perennials like iris, astilbe and lilies now for more blooms next spring.
- Leave ornamental grasses for overwintering birds, winter interest and depth in your garden, and wait to prune them until spring.

EP Historical Society Endowment!!

We have set a goal to raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment for the East Providence Historical Society. So far we have raised \$62,829 towards that goal.

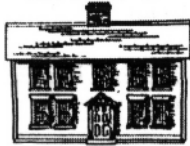


WELCOME

To Our New Members

- Paul T. Barnum & Patricia I. Anthony





John Hunt House

East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

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