

John Hunt House

OLDE NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

VOL. VII NO.1

JULY/AUGUST 1994

Society to Receive AASLH Award For Hunt House Restoration

“.....nation's most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state and regional history...”

Edna Anness

The American Association for State and Local History is a national organization of representatives of historical societies from all over the United States. Each year the members consider the achievements of the historical societies in research, education and restoration.

The Hunt House Restoration Project was entered last year in the category of, “A restoration performed by a small, volunteer historical society”. We were rejected because the project was not completed. This year, because it was such an outstanding project, we were invited to re-submit the proposal for consideration in the “continuing project” category.

On July 1st we were notified that the Restoration will be recognized nationally with an award to be presented on September 29, at their convention in Omaha.

We hope that project leader **Walter Vincent** will be able to attend the award ceremonies to represent the Society and especially all those volunteers whose work on the Project has earned us this award.

The letter from the AASLH says, in part, “The AASLH Awards Program is the nation's most prestigious competition for recognition of achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state and regional history. We congratulate you for the work that has brought you this honor.”

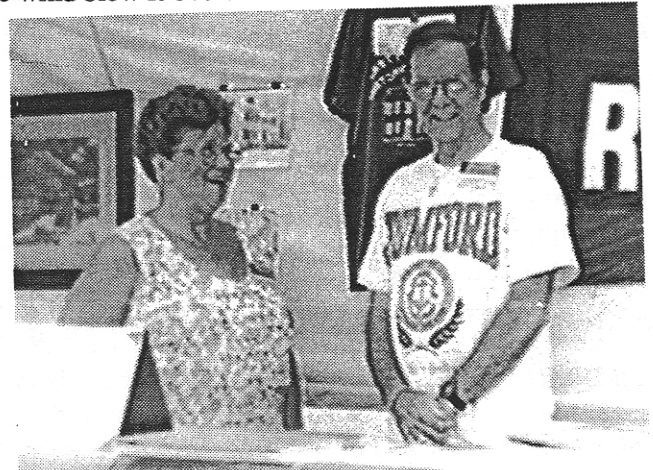
In the next issue of *Olde News* we will list the names of those volunteers who have participated in the Hunt House Restoration Project since 1988.

And....if there are more volunteers interested in joining a WINNING TEAM.....call **Walt Vincent** at 434-0481 and get on board in September!

E.P. HERITAGE DAYS.....

Our booth at East Providence Heritage Days attracted the attention of many thousands that attended the annual event.

Our merchandise, especially the Rumford Tins and Cook-books was very popular according to those who represented the Society and helped with the display: **Ray Anderson, Billie Arden, Ginnie Berwick, Terry Drennan, Pat Henry, Armand Ladeira, Dick and Jean Lundgren, Mary McManus, Nancy Moore, Nancy Stevens, Walter and Madeline Vincent** and all those others who showed up to help in various ways...such as righting the booth when the wind blew it over!



Billie Arden and Armando Ladeira
Heritage Days Historical Societyites

President's Letter

Nancy Moore

The heat of summer is upon me as I write this article - not my favorite weather, how about you! The new Board has already had its marathon meeting to sketch out the coming year's agenda, and some wonderful events are planned, including a boat trip on the Blackstone Canal at foliage time (see details in this newsletter) and a Forties Big Band concert/dance in the Spring. The year promises to be as busy and exciting as the last, and, with our greatly expanded membership, a chance for everyone to help out.

The RI Historic Preservation Commission sent us a questionnaire a while back asking the Society to think ahead five years and dream a little about what we would like to see locally and statewide on the preservation front at that time. The process of filling this sheet out has centered my thinking a bit. For instance, the first question asks whether public education about preservation, or the implementation of historic district zoning will be the focus of our efforts. The answer is so easy: EDUCATION!! Because we now make education a priority, our Society is healthy and growing. And, one cannot even imagine trying to implement zoning without a massive educational campaign. We do have concerns here in our city as to threatened historic buildings or areas, but our efforts to win support for our projects will be much easier because of our outreach programs.

It seems a long time from the "old-time" picnic (a grand affair, in everyone's opinion) to the September 26th meeting. However, plan to come early for a good seat to hear and see National Park Ranger Suzanne Buchanan from the Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor introduce us to this area's newest national park, the site of our boat tours, October 15 and 16.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

FURTHER ITEMS:

QUILTERS NEEDED:The Carousel Preservation Association is planning a quilt raffle as part of its 100th year anniversary fundraising. Designs for the quilt top will be done by local elementary school children, and the Association is looking for local quilters to put the quilt together. If you would like to be part of this worthwhile project please call Gail Durfee at 433-2828 or 435-7518.

OLDE NEWS

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Editor.....George Adams

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916
(401) 438-1750

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Markers	Kristine Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Preservation	Leslie Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 14
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Saturday, September 24
YARD SALE
9.00 a.m. - Noon, Hunt House

Monday, September 26
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church
"Blackstone Valley National Heritage Park Corridor"
Suzanne Buchanan, National Park Ranger

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 12
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Saturday, October 15, 11 a.m.
Sunday October 16, 2 p.m.
Blackstone Valley EXPLORER
Woonsocket Falls Riverboat tours

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1062 Willett Ave., East Providence

FEINSTEIN GRANT

Edna Anness

Plans are being made for fifth grade pupils from East Providence to visit the Hunt House and the Bridgham Farm Conservation Area in October. A classroom package consisting of slides, worksheets and related materials on the history of East Providence, Hunt's Mills and Bridgham Farm is being assembled.

A background lecture with slides and readings will be presented, followed by a walk through the Conservation Area and a tour of the John Hunt House.

At the Hunt House, museum docent **Gladys Panzarella** will teach the visitors how to make and use 18th century games and toys. In June we did a "practice run" with pupils from Silver Spring School which was very successful.

The visits will begin in October and continue in April. We urgently NEED volunteer docents to show the house, sell in the museum store and help with the games. A training session will be held early in September. The visits will be for two hours in the morning during the last two weeks in October

Please volunteer for a very pleasant way to help the museum staff.

Please call:

David Kelleher 434-2763

Nancy Moore 438-4299

Edna Anness 434-3347

Virginia Berwick 434-0998

Gladys Panzarella 434-5116

MEMBER'S MEETING

Monday September 26, at 7:30 p.m. →

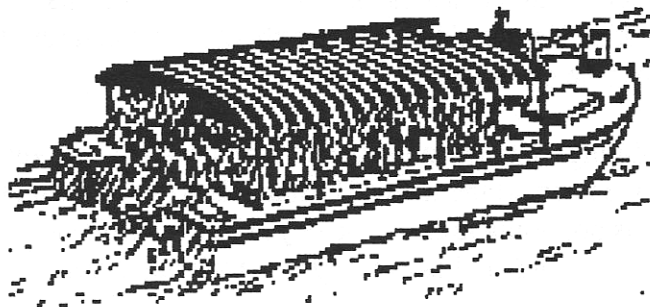
NEWMAN CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

SPEAKER- NATIONAL PARK RANGER,
SUZANNE BUCHANAN →

**"BLACKSTONE VALLEY
NATIONAL HERITAGE PARK
CORRIDOR"**

15 minute video "How things Work";
talk following emphasizing the area of
the boat trip; question/answer period. →

The BLACKSTONE VALLEY EXPLORER



TAKE THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR A RIDE

EXPLORE THE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR BY RIVERBOAT

The Society has reserved the EXPLORER, a 49 passenger, comfortable, weatherized riverboat for two foliage "Burst of Color" tours along the Blackstone Canal from Woonsocket to Blackstone, Mass. The **one hour** tours leave from Woonsocket Falls, the fare is **\$5.00 per person**, and the boat is reserved for **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15 - 11AM** and **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 - 2PM**. We expect these cruises to fill up fast as a family event, especially on Sunday, so phone your reservations to **SOPHIE ALLEN (434-3786) ASAP**. If you get her message machine, be sure to specify the day, number in your party, and your name and address for directions and further information. (We are not providing bus transportation to Woonsocket, but we will try to link people up for rides.)

MUSEUM REPORT

Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairman

The Rumford Exhibit and the Annual Picnic, both great events due to all the willing workers, are history now. **Edna Anness** and I thought we could relax a bit for the summer but in the last batch of mail we received 28 letters requesting Rumford tins and cookbooks.. We had sent tins to 4 people before that.

Our dining room table looks like a mail room and I guess I'll have to enlist the help of husband **Earl** to be secretary, as he is not doing much these days since he broke his leg *again* on July 5 and has to stay put. He's doing very well.

We have received mail from 21 states so far. The tins are quite a hit with the Tin Collectors, who have a newsletter, "Tin Fax" and who mentioned seeing our tin on Willard Scott's TV show. Dont even have to *pay* to advertise!!!

After the summer we will be putting away some of the Rumford artifacts but the Store and Office will remain for a while. If you missed the Exhibit, you can see some of it starting in September.

Gifts Received in June

- Ocean State Steel** - 2000+ drawings of buildings and machines 1901-1980.
- Dick Lundgren** - 1931 plaque from Pawtucket Ave. Bridge.
- Austin Butterworth** - Store tape dispenser..
- Edna Wilcox** - 5 Providence Journal Almanacs.
- Dave Kelleher** - 3 Crescent Park signs.
- Diane Lynch** - Horsford biscuit cutter.
- Marjorie Chase** - 10 schoolbooks.
- Ed and Marion Coop** - Rumford Company artifacts.
- Fales Pierce** - E.P. District Nurse's book of meeting minutes and purchases (**not** a uniform!).
- Clare Sullivan** - Fire alarm box from Williams Ave. School.
- Marilyn Brewer** - Update on E.P. High School class of 1942.
- Ken Roberts** - Copy of *Riverside Gazette* 1932.
- Ruth Munro** - Hunt's Mills postcard 1908.
- Ray Anderson** - Several historic East Providence postcards
- Carleton Bulley** - E.P. Bicentennial Report 1976.
- Helen King** - Federal period high chest, Greek Revival style.

THANKS TO ALL!

MEMBERSHIP

Madeline Vincent
Membership Chairman

We welcome our new members:

George & Beverly Chalko
Sandra Fonseca
Bernice Hardy
Donald & Diana McLean
Ruth Munro
Phyllis Sawyer
George & Cornelia Sturgis
John Swanson
Barbara Thornton
James & Catherine Travers
Roger & Martha Vailancourt

Volunteer hosts/hostesses are needed for the coming meetings. I would like to arrange hosting for at least 3 months in advance. Volunteers are asked to serve at only **one** meeting a year. Please call **Madeline** at 434-0481. Anytime.

The EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY will sponsor a free slide presentation/lecture "Good Old Golden Rule Days" The history of East Providence schools presented by **Edna Anness** in the Champlin Room, Weaver Library September 14, 7:30 p.m.



l-r: **Ruth Pierce, Helen Smith, Florence Adams and Sophie Allen** prepare to serve strawberry shortcake to more than 150 people at the Annual Meeting/Family Picnic in June

BUILDING RESTORATION

Walter Vincent

Chairman, Buildings & Grounds Committee

September 1st means getting back to work on the Hunt House restoration. As we are in great need of help to do this work, I look forward to seeing **many new volunteers**.

Please consider offering your services for as many or as few hours as you can. Our present schedule is Tuesday and Thursday, 8 - 12 a.m., but they can be varied.

I'd like to start with completing the installation of the windows, but there is other work also.....scraping, painting & papering, etc. to be done.

MARKERS

Kristine Rose

Chairman, Marker Committee

The following homeowners received Markers at the April, 1994 meeting:

Walter and Bridget Anness, 60 Greenwood Avenue:
Ruth S. Arnold House, ca. 1897

Steve and Ton Brun, 8 Blanding Avenue:
The Indoor Tennis Court, ca. 1913

E.P. Community Center, 1320 Pawtucket Avenue:
Union Primary School, ca. 1872

Robert Haig Associates, 1410 North Broadway:
Joseph D. Fitts House, ca. 1911

Daniel Mahler, 3120 Pawtucket Avenue:
James Dennis House, ca. 1870

Rhonda Marzetta, 92 North Broadway:
Rumford Mill House, ca. 1882

Judith Sharpe, 332 Pleasant Street:
Lyceum Hall, ca. 1835

Jean Waage, 232 Pleasant Street:
James M. Bishop House, ca. 1790

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Yard Sale

Saturday, September 24th

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

John Hunt House

Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Items for sale may be brought to Hunt House from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning September 1.

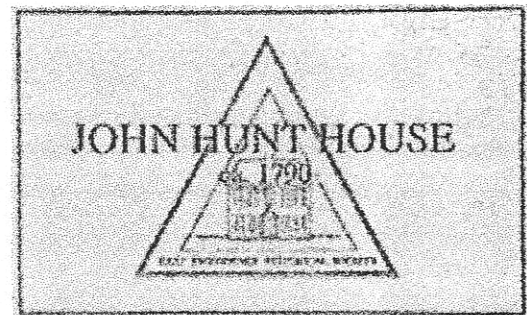
(for special arrangements, call WALT VINCENT 434-0481)

*No clothing or too-large-to-carry appliances
Limited VENDORS space @ \$15.00 each
For space reservation telephone Florence Adams 437-1530*

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARKER PROGRAM

Your home may be eligible for a MARKER



Any building in the City of East Providence which contributes to the historical development or architectural character of the City is eligible to be considered for a historical marker

Send the coupon below to:

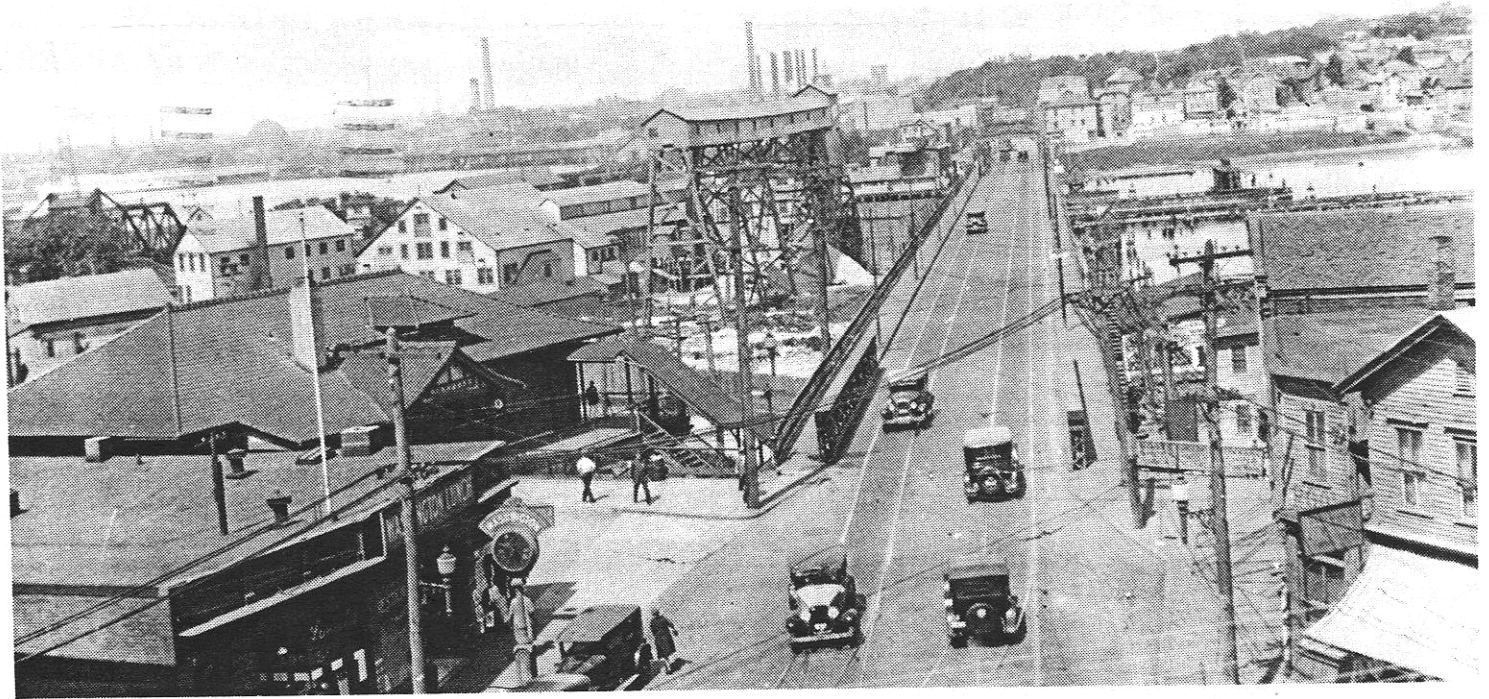
The Marker Program
East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916-4774

I am interested in receiving information about the East Providence Marker Program

Name _____
Address _____



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Jess Welt Photo

Watchemoket Square 1924

The Railroad, Providence River, Boston Post Road, Rt. 6 and Rt. 44
 Met at Watchemoket Square.....Crossroads of the World.

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