

*The newly rehabilitated  
Valentine Whitman House  
(c. 1696) in Lincoln.*



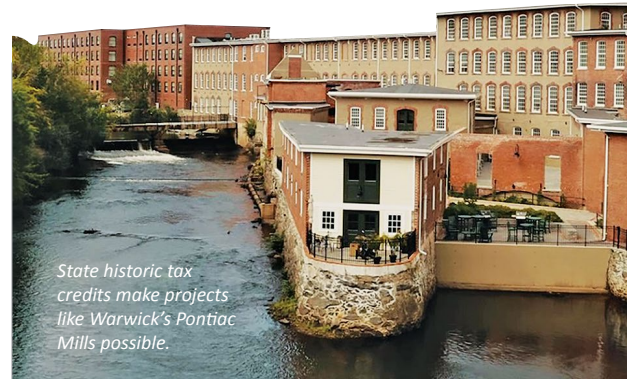
# 2022 Annual Report

Protecting and activating historic places for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders.



# Top 10 Achievements for 2022

1. Collaborated with like-minded organizations to advocate for State Historic Tax Credits, yielding \$28 million in new funding.



State historic tax credits make projects like Warwick's Pontiac Mills possible.

2. Raised awareness of the positive impact that historic preservation has across our state on issues like affordable housing, economic revitalization, and environmental sustainability, by celebrating ten 2022 Rhody Awardees, from Woonsocket to Westerly.

The restored Perry Gristmill in South Kingston was one of the 2022 Rhody Awardees.



3. Continued our Stone Wall Initiative on Aquidneck Island. Over the last three years, in partnership with the Preservation Society of Newport County, we restored over 1,800 linear feet of stone walls thanks to the hard work of more than 50 volunteers.

Volunteers at Norman Bird Sanctuary, Middletown.



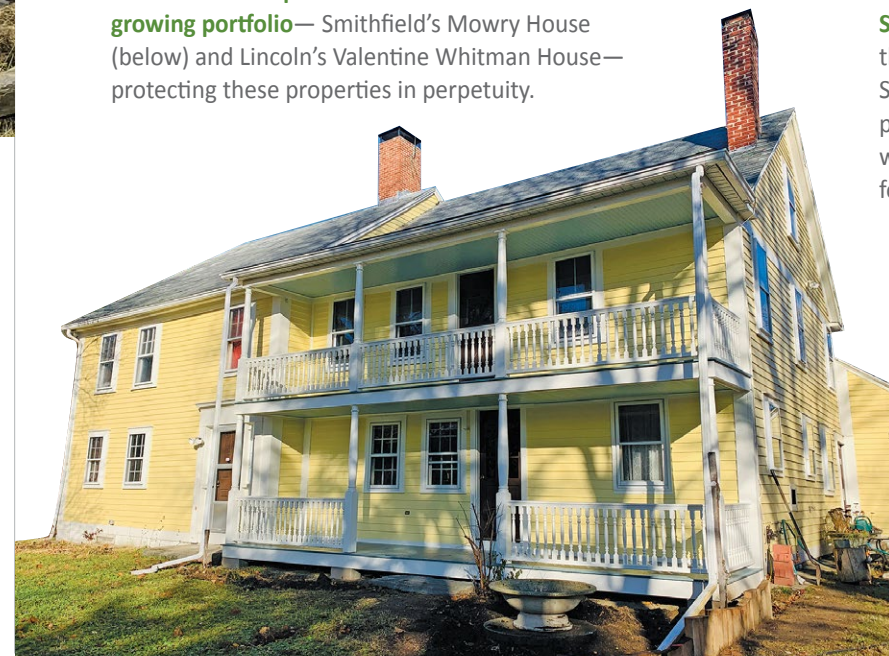
4. Partnered with The 1772 Foundation to grant \$125,000 of funding annually for preservation projects across Rhode Island. In the past three years we have made more than 40 grants to local non-profits for capital projects.

Providence's Wedding Cake House took on roof repair work thanks to a 1772 Grant.



5. Provided "CPR" for threatened properties as part of our Community Preservation Response program. This year alone we worked on 24 projects in 17 towns, including speaking up against proposed demolitions in Tiverton, Barrington, Bristol, Warren, and Narragansett.

8. Added two new preservation easements to our growing portfolio— Smithfield's Mowry House (below) and Lincoln's Valentine Whitman House— protecting these properties in perpetuity.



6. Built on Lippitt House Museum's successful adult English Language Learner program by creating a new Civics class to help prepare students for their US citizenship test while learning Rhode Island history and improving their English skills.

7. Continued to care for the historic buildings under our stewardship, including repairing brownstone steps at Lippitt House Museum and installing a new roof at Walker House.

9. Produced a new study on Stone Enders that expanded the number of confirmed Stone Enders from 9 to 14, and provided new theories as to why this architectural style is found only in Rhode Island.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

10. Found a new solution for a former house museum.



Right: The original floors and fireplaces are protected in perpetuity.  
Below: Putting a new cedar shingle roof on Valentine Whitman.

In the early 1990s, the town of Lincoln saved the Valentine Whitman Jr. House from demolition thanks to the leadership of volunteers who convinced the town to purchase the 1696 building—arguably the best example of a Rhode Island Stone Ender in the state. For the next 30 years, volunteers managed the property as a house museum; however, without an endowment or significant revenues from rentals or tours, the town struggled to keep up with the maintenance of the historic building. Many historic sites in Rhode Island face similar challenges when it comes to planning for the long-term preservation of their historic buildings.

The town approached us back in 2018 for advice. When they realized that \$600 thousand in repair work was needed, they asked us to help find alternatives. Our solution: give Preserve RI the house on the condition that we rehabilitate the house back into a residential home—keeping the historic details but adding modern amenities like a 21st century kitchen and baths. After rehabilitation, Preserve RI would sell the property to recoup most of our costs. In August 2021, the town transferred the

property to us, and we began a year-long rehabilitation of the property. Sold in October 2022, with a historic easement protecting the exterior, interior, and setting in perpetuity, the house is in excellent condition and has new stewards to love the home. Instead of being a liability, this historic house continues to add to the character of Great Road and now contributes to the town’s tax rolls.

Preserve RI is uniquely positioned to help historic site stewards struggling with rising stewardship and programming costs and declining human and financial resources. The situation for some historic sites has become dire. As “preservation problem solvers” we have the expertise to identify a new future for historic assets and assist in transitioning stewardship to a sustainable model.

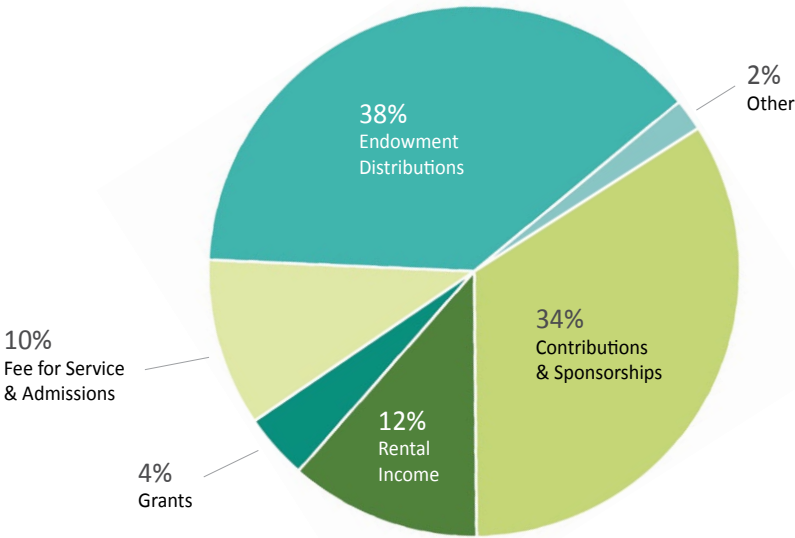


Financials

In addition to contributions that directly supported Preserve RI’s programs and operations as shown on these charts, last year we raised over \$220,000 as fiscal sponsor and project manager to support preservation projects across the state.

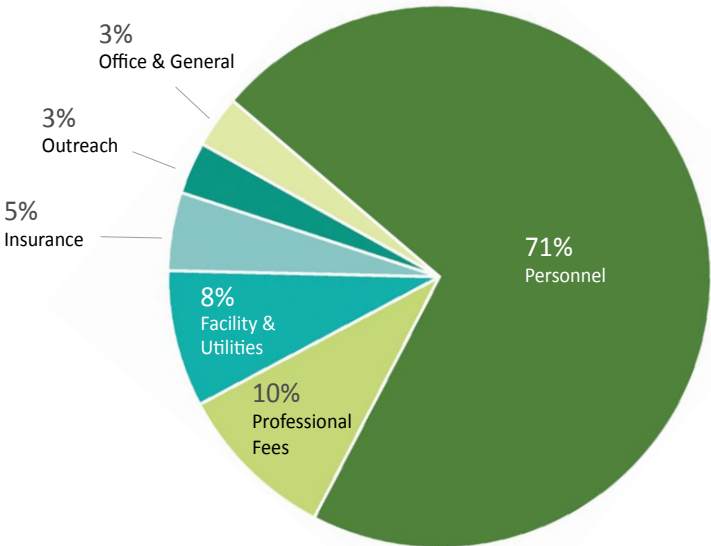
2022 OPERATING REVENUE\* | \$812,213

\*Unaudited Financials



2022 OPERATING EXPENSE\* | \$760,163

\*Unaudited Financials





# Planning for the Future

## PRIORITIES AND GOALS

### ENGAGE

Motivate people to connect with historic places so that all Rhode Island communities can reap cultural, environmental, and economic benefits.

### INFLUENCE

Strengthen support for the preservation of historic places.

### EMPOWER

Help people preserve the historic places that matter to them.

### ACT

Protect historic places through direct action, stewardship, collaboration, and innovation.

### STRENGTHEN

Build Preserve RI's capacity to better serve the growing preservation needs across our state's diverse communities.

## Strategic Plan

In 2022 our board and staff completed a new Strategic Plan that will guide our work for the next several years. With input from community stakeholders across the state, the plan builds on our successes and addresses both new and ongoing concerns facing Rhode Islanders.

**Our mission:** To protect and activate historic places for the benefit of all Rhode Islanders.

*"Historic preservation isn't just a nice thing to do — it's a key economic and community development strategy for Rhode Island."*

*~ Valerie Talmage, Executive Director*



*Providence's Dexter House (c. 1754) is home to Preserve RI's headquarters.*

## Priorities for 2023

- Make the case for activating historic properties in Rhode Island, illustrating how safeguarding historic places produces economic, environmental, and cultural benefits for all Rhode Island communities.
- Take direct action to protect and activate historic places, particularly working with municipal and nonprofit owners to protect properties and find economically sustainable uses for the future.
- Continue to help community advocates by speaking up for historic places and influencing decision makers to take good care of community historic assets.

# 2022 Donors

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*“When our local historic society was struggling to find solutions  
 for the old Jail, Preserve RI consulted and educated us.  
 We ultimately decided a preservation easement (held by Preserve RI)  
 coupled with a private sale was the right decision for us.”*

*~ Jen Suellentrop, East Greenwich Historic Preservation Society*

## LIPPITT HOUSE MUSEUM’S SUMMER CONCERTS IN THE GARDEN

Through the generosity of friends and family in memory of Duncan “Hunt” Mauran, the Hunter Family Music Series was established in 2005 at Lippitt House Museum. Today those gifts continue to support live performances at the Museum. During the summer of 2022, Rhode Island artists performed at two afternoon concerts bringing community members together on the historic Lippitt House grounds. The outdoor concerts create an opportunity to celebrate local talent and the arts in Rhode Island. We are grateful for the support of Lippitt House Museum donors who make programs like this possible.

Visit [LippittHouse.org](https://LippittHouse.org) and follow the Museum on social media for information about tours and other programs.

Caribbean soul  
 artist Becky  
 Bass performs  
 in the Lippitt  
 House Museum’s  
 garden in  
 Providence.





# Become involved at PreserveRI.org

*Lippitt House Museum's  
English Language Learner  
participants enjoy the garden.*



**Make a Donation** to your statewide advocate for Rhode Island's historic places

**Become a Member** as an individual, business, or non-profit

**Join our Anchor Circle** and become a leading supporter of our work

**Be a Life-long Learner and Volunteer** with our stone wall repair initiative

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