



The statewide advocate for Rhode Island's historic places

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2025 – Providence, RI

Preserve Rhode Island Awards \$125,000 in 18 Grants to Nonprofits Across the State to Repair Historic Buildings

Preserve Rhode Island, in partnership with The 1772 Foundation, has awarded \$125,000 in one-to-one matching grants to 18 nonprofit organizations across the Ocean State. These bricks-and-mortar investments will support urgent repairs and long-term preservation at some of Rhode Island's most treasured historic places. From colonial-era meeting houses to industrial mills and civic halls, this year's projects reflect the rich diversity of the state's architectural heritage—and the deep commitment of the local stewards working to protect them. Since launching the program in 2020, Preserve RI has helped distribute more than \$725,000 in preservation funding across Rhode Island.

"This unique grant program provides the opportunity for Preserve RI to support important historic preservation projects throughout the state. We greatly appreciate the 1772 Foundation's vision, which makes this possible," said Sheryl Hack, Executive Director of Preserve RI.

The 1772 Foundation's mandate is to preserve historic structures across seven states throughout the East Coast. They rely on statewide preservation organizations, like Preserve RI, to help identify worthy projects and manage the local grant program.

The 2025 Recipients include:

Bristol

Benjamin Church Senior Center — Awarded: \$7,650

The Senior Center will restore its rear porch, including deteriorated lattice, trim, and balustrades. This work supports the daily programming and social services offered to Bristol's older adults.

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957 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02904 | www.PreserveRI.org | (401) 272-5101

Friends of Linden Place – Linden Place Ballroom — Awarded: \$8,500

A new slate roof will be installed on the early 20th-century ballroom at Linden Place, a contributing structure in the Bristol Waterfront Historic District. The project will prevent water infiltration and protect a space regularly used for public programs and events.

East Greenwich

Academy Science Center – Olney Cottage — Awarded: \$4,250

Stabilization of the stone foundation at this 1897 cottage will support ongoing educational programming in science and environmental studies.

Varnum Continentals – Varnum House Museum — Awarded: \$4,000

This grant will support the restoration of the Varnum House Museum's central entrance portico and historic front door, originally built in 1773. The work will help improve visitor access to this Revolutionary War-era landmark.

Foster

Foster Preservation Society – Mount Hygeia Schoolhouse — Awarded: \$9,000

Funds will help rebuild the floor framing and subfloor of Foster's last unaltered historic schoolhouse, enabling future restoration and public use.

Jamestown

Jamestown Historical Society – Conanicut Friends Meeting House — Awarded: \$8,500

A critical stabilization effort will temporarily lift the structure from its foundation to address water damage and foundational instability at one of the oldest Quaker meeting houses in the region.

Lincoln

Historic New England – Arnold House — Awarded: \$8,500

A new fire detection and monitoring system will be installed in this 1693 National Historic Landmark, enhancing protection of the site while it continues serving as a museum and educational resource.

Newport

Fort Adams Trust – Fort Adams — Awarded: \$9,000

Emergency masonry repairs to collapsed embrasures on the West Wall will stabilize one of America's largest coastal fortifications, ensuring safe public access and continued programming.

IYRS School of Technology & Trades – Aquidneck Mill Building — Awarded: \$8,500
Repairs to more than 50 windows and 6 doors on the north elevation will preserve this 1831 cotton mill, now part of the IYRS campus. The nonprofit school offers hands-on training in marine systems, woodworking, and preservation trades.

Newport Art Museum – John N.A. Griswold House — Awarded: \$2,500
Funds will support the installation of a drainage system to divert stormwater from the foundation. This is the first step in a larger effort to restore the porch and address water-related damage.

North Kingstown

Cocumscussoc Association – Smith’s Castle — Awarded: \$5,600
Exterior painting and wood repairs to the north and west elevations will complete the final phase of restoration at this 1678 structure. Once a colonial trading post, Smith’s Castle is now a museum interpreting early Rhode Island history.

North Smithfield

North Smithfield Heritage Association – Heritage Hall — Awarded: \$7,000
This former Grange Hall, built in 1897, will undergo exterior repainting and restoration to support its continued use as a community meeting space within the Slatersville Historic District.

Providence

Hamilton House: Adult Learning Exchange — Awarded: \$7,000
This project includes roof and masonry repairs of the Portico on the 1896 Hamilton House, along with removing a non-historic flagpole causing damage. The site serves as a vibrant educational hub for older adults.

Providence Art Club – Fleur de Lys Studios — Awarded: \$4,300
Grant funds will support stucco repair and repainting on the iconic 1885 artist studio, preserving a nationally recognized example of Arts & Crafts architecture still used for creative work.

Rhode Island Historical Society – Aldrich House — Awarded: \$4,700
Select elevations of the Aldrich House, an 1822 National Historic Landmark used for exhibits and events, will have exterior siding, window trim, soffits, and gutters repaired and repainted.

*Trinity Gateway Historic Improvement Association – Grace Church Cemetery
Caretaker's Cottage — Awarded: \$9,000*

Chimney repairs and a new security system will help stabilize and protect this mid-19th-century caretaker's cottage, a rare architectural feature within one of Providence's earliest public cemeteries. The work supports long-term preservation and future reuse.

Warwick

House of Hope CDC – Fair House — Awarded: \$8,500

Repairs to the foundation and exterior woodwork will address concerns identified in a recent conditions assessment funded by The 1772 Foundation. Built in the 1820s, the Fair House now offers affordable housing and services to prevent and end homelessness in Rhode Island.

Westerly

Westerly Armory Restoration, Inc. – Westerly Armory — Awarded: \$8,500

The installation of a lightning protection system will mitigate future damage to this National Register-listed building, previously struck by lightning.

Awardee Photos: [Click here to access.](#)

About Preserve Rhode Island

Preserve Rhode Island is Rhode Island's statewide advocate for historic places. The 69-year-old nonprofit provides guidance for local preservation groups, finds productive and adaptive reuses for threatened buildings, advocates for the revitalization of historic places to stimulate local economies, and engages the community through public programs at Lippitt House Museum.

About the 1772 Foundation

The 1772 Foundation was named in honor of its first restoration project, Liberty Hall in Union, NJ, which was built in 1772 and is the ancestral home of the Livingston and Kean families. The late Stewart B. Kean was the original benefactor of The 1772 Foundation. The 1772 Foundation works to ensure the safe passage of historic assets to future generations. More information about The 1772 Foundation may be found at www.1772foundation.org.

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