



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Preserve Rhode Island Secures Conservation Easement in Providence's Historic East Side**

A conservation easement within Providence's East Side has been donated to Preserve Rhode Island (Preserve RI). The conservation easement, which protects a plot of land that has historical value, will help protect the scenic character of the College Hill Historic District. Preserve RI was contacted by the former owners of the property and accompanying Underwood-Hale-Noyes House (c. 1826), who were concerned about potential development of the land. According to research, the land has never been built on since the inception of the property lot. While the house's historic qualities are already under the protection of the local historic district commission, the side yard was vulnerable to future development without the use of the conservation easement.

"It became clear to me that much of the home's character came from its setting with the ample yard and garden," said Arria Bilodeau, former co-owner of 122 Hope St., and donor of the conservation easement. The side yard holds not only historic but sentimental value for Arria and her husband Harrison. The area was used extensively throughout their 50 years owning the land, including to host community events, porch-side dinners, and graduation parties for tenants (the Underwood-Hale-Noyes home was a resident-occupied multi-family building during the Bilodeau's time there).

"Opportunities to preserve open land in cities like Providence are rare. The impact of the protected area is incalculable, and its loss would have damaged the beauty and historic character of the College Hill neighborhood. Easements offer a way to protect these valuable assets in perpetuity," says Valerie Talmage, Executive Director of Preserve Rhode Island

Preserve Rhode Island currently holds 11 preservation/conservation easements across the state. An easement is a binding legal agreement that protects the historic, architectural, or scenic qualities of a property, ensuring that they will not be destroyed or inappropriately altered. This provides owners of historic properties with the ability to sell their property with peace of mind, knowing that the historic significance and integrity will be protected by Preserve RI.

**About Preserve Rhode Island**

Preserve Rhode Island is Rhode Island's statewide advocate for historic places. The 67-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.

[Images of the property are available here.](#)

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