

State Preservation Grants

Funded by the Creative and Cultural Economy Bonds (2014)
Grant Rounds 2015-2017

January 31, 2021





A craftsman hand-notches a rafter for the State Preservation Grant-funded roof restoration at the Coggeshall Farm Museum (c. 1799, Bristol).

State Preservation Grants

administered by the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

- Competitively-awarded grants ranging from \$12,000 - \$150,000 fund capital preservation projects at museums, cultural art centers, and public historic sites located in historic structures.
- Funded by voter-approved bond issues in 2002, 2004, and 2014.
- All grants require recipient match. Match promotes careful planning, stimulates broader support and participation in projects, and leverages private resources statewide.
- Of the 56 projects funded by the 2014 bond, 48 are now complete.
- The total value of completed projects funded by the 2014 bond is over \$10 million – with most of those project dollars going to Rhode Island-based contractors and craftsmen.
- RIHPHC received 88 applications for State Preservation Grants from 2015-2017. Needs of cultural organizations remain high.
- Over the life of the program (2003-present), State Preservation Grants have funded projects in 31 of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns.
- Grantees from 2015-2017 host an estimated 1.9 million visitors per year.

2014 Bond: Project Status of 1/31/2021

56
grants
awarded

48 construction
projects
completed

\$3.9 million
disbursed to
completed
projects

\$6.4 million in
match leveraged
by grantees

\$10.2 million total
value of
completed
projects

Rhode Island Jobs

Rhode Island-based contractors benefitting from State Preservation Grant-funded projects include:

- E.F. O'Donnell & Sons
- Martone Service Co.
- Nation Wide Construction
- Dimeo Construction
- Abcore Restoration
- The Preservation Cooperative
- Southfield Preservation
- Jeffrey R. Hall Builders
- Dennis Moffit Painting
- RD Preservation Co.
- E.W. Burman
- Blue Skies Construction
- Campbell Painting
- Heritage Restoration, Inc.
- Erickson Builders
- Architectural Preservation Group
- Millard Construction
- Casa Buena Builders
- James P. Tavares Construction
- Behan Brothers
- A1 Roofing and Construction
- Kirby Perkins Construction
- Apollo Roofing & Sheet Metal
- The Damon Company

Representative Sample of Completed Projects

Pomham Rocks Lighthouse: Interior Restoration

The **Friends of Pomham Rocks**, a volunteer group and a chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation, received a **\$150,000** State Preservation Grant in 2015 to restore the interior of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, the last remaining lighthouse in the upper part of Narragansett Bay.

This large and ambitious project included the restoration of electricity to the lighthouse from the mainland (completed in 2016) and top-to-bottom interior restoration of the building. The lighthouse is now outfitted as a museum documenting the building's restoration and depicting life at the lighthouse in the early 1950s.

The building, previously unsafe to enter, now welcomes visitors from the general public for the very first time. Public access to the lighthouse is provided by Save the Bay.



Pomham Rocks Lighthouse (1871) interior staircase before and after SPG-funded restoration.

American-French Genealogical Society: ADA Accessibility

The **American-French Genealogical Society** in Woonsocket received a **\$150,000** grant towards the construction and installation of an elevator and ADA-accessible entrance vestibule on the rear elevation of their headquarters, the former First Universalist Church at 78 Earle Street.

The building's basement-level research library, first-level meeting spaces, and second floor Veteran's Memorial Museum are now accessible to all visitors.

AFGS is open to the public Mondays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays from 1 to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Veterans Memorial Museum is open Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



New street-level entry and elevator vestibule, funded with a State Preservation Grant.

Town of Cumberland: Franklin Farm Exterior Restoration

The **Town of Cumberland** received a **\$149,041** State Preservation Grant for the Farmhouse at Franklin Farm, a public historic site currently used for active farming which provides much needed locally grown food to the Rhode Island Food Bank. Franklin Farm is also an educational site where students from local schools come to learn about the history of the property as well as nature and wildlife in Cumberland.

The project was the full exterior restoration of the Farmhouse, including masonry improvements, exterior painting, replacement of the asphalt shingle roof with historically-appropriate wood shingles, and replacing vinyl windows.

The Farm welcomes approximately 2,000 visitors annually.



Franklin Farmhouse (ca.1857) before and after exterior restoration, funded with State Preservation Grant.