

A JOINT PRESS RELEASE FROM



R.I. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House 150 Benefit Street Providence, RI 02903

www.preservation.ri.gov | (401) 222-2678



PRESERVE RHODE ISLAND

957 North Main Street Providence, RI 02904

www.preserveri.org | (401) 272-5101

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Images attached—additional upon request

Contact: Sarah Zurier, RIHPHC, (401)222-4142, sarah.zurier@preservation.ri.gov
Morgan Devlin, PRI, (401)273-5101, mdevlin@preserveri.org

**POCASSET MILL IN JOHNSTON
WINS RHODY AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

A historic Johnston mill converted into 92 loft apartments is one of the dozen projects, places, and people that will be honored at the fifth annual Rhode Island Preservation Celebration. The event will take place at the award-winning Weekapaug Inn in Westerly from 4:00 to 7:00pm on Sunday, September 29.

The Rhody Awards, chosen by Preserve Rhode Island (PRI) and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) from nominations by the public, honor individuals, organizations, and projects for their contributions to the preservation of Rhode Island's historic places.

The team of Brady Sullivan Properties and Starr Development Partners LLC will receive a Preservation Projects Award for the adaptive reuse of **Pocasset Mill**. The mill complex that was Johnston's largest employer in the early 20th century now provides a desirable residential address. The Pocasset Worsted Company Mill was built between 1897 and 1923 on the Pocasset River to produce a variety of worsted yarns that were sold to other companies for weaving and knitting. Worsted wool fabrics were very popular for suits, jackets, and, during World War I, for soldiers' uniforms. The mill continued textile production until 1989, when it was converted for use by its last industrial tenants, the Rich Paper Box Company.

Using State and Federal historic preservation tax credits, Brady Sullivan Properties and Starr Development Partners LLC collaborated on the redevelopment of Pocasset Mill. Concise Design Group developed the rehabilitation program in consultation with Epsilon Associates Inc. The roof was replaced, distinctive brick smokestack and steel water tank restored, masonry repaired and repointed, and the site was regraded and landscaped. The mill interior was rehabilitated to provide 92 market-rate rental apartments—with 18-foot ceilings. Original features like sliding metal doors, scales for weighing wool, staircases with beadboard enclosures, and tongue-and-groove wood flooring were restored.

Much of the mill complex is dedicated to common spaces and amenities for the residents. The boiler house now hosts a basketball court, and the engine house contains the lobby, television room, lounge, library, gathering room, game room, communal kitchen, a fully equipped fitness center, and offices. Outside the mill, there is a shared patio. Although the lower level of the mill is located on a floodplain and not suitable for residential development, the developers were able to convert the space into a garage and offer indoor parking for 33 cars. The high-quality rehabilitation of Pocasset Mill demonstrates that a town’s historic mill buildings are enduring resources for economic development and community life.

The Rhode Island Preservation Celebration and Rhody Awards event is open to the public and features local beverages, delicious appetizers, a silent auction, and a raffle. Tickets cost \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. To buy a ticket or request more information, call (401)272-5101 or visit www.preserveri.org.

RHODY AWARDS DIGEST 2013

<p>Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award G. Timothy Cranston of North Kingstown</p>	<p>Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award John R. Tschirch of Bristol</p>
<p>John H. Chafee Public Service Award Michael Rubin and Gregory S. Schultz of the Office of Attorney General Peter F. Kilmartin Michael P. Lewis, R.I. Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Education Award Newport Historical Society for <i>Explore Historic Newport</i> Stewardship Award Town of Narragansett</p>
<p>Project Awards Cranberry Processing Barn, Coventry Miles B. Lawson Octagon House, Providence Pocasset Mill, Johnston To Kalon Club, Pawtucket Weekapaug Inn, Westerly Willett Free Library, North Kingstown</p>	
<p>Special Recognition Sharon Allison of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission</p>	

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