



Newport
Restoration
Foundation

2020 Annual Report

2020 By the Numbers

3

house exteriors
repaired and
repainted

71

educational
videos created

34

objects newly
conserved

27,871

viewed our
virtual
programs

286

subscribed to our
YouTube
Channel

488

items newly
accessioned from
Shangri La



A Letter from the Director

When the public health crisis struck in March 2020, like everyone else, we wrestled with adjusting to a new reality. For an organization like NRF, it was a time of uncertainty. Would we be able to open Rough Point and Whitehorne House Museum? What impact would social distancing and quarantines have on our need to preserve our houses? How would the pandemic affect the well-being of our staff and the community?

The year was far from typical, and yet we realized that the best way to navigate through the pandemic was to keep everyone working as long as we could do it safely. We were fortunate in not having to lay off or reduce the hours of a single employee. We ended the year with a balanced budget and we got things done.

Working with two different groups of consultants, we initiated Historic Structure Reports on both Rough Point and the William Vernon House. Our museum staff produced educational videos at a pace of more than one a week. NRF's Director of Preservation, with assistance from the preservation crew, completed condition assessments on all of our houses – more than 70 in total. We convened our furniture symposium – *Collective Perspectives* – as well as hosted the Doris Duke Historic Preservation Awards virtually. In July, we opened Rough Point and Whitehorne House Museum for in-person visitation.

We could not have sustained this work in 2020 without the support of friends like you. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and NRF staff, thank you for reading this report and for taking an interest in our mission.

Sincerely,



Mark Thompson
Executive Director



2020 MUSEUM UPDATE

ROUGH POINT MUSEUM



Operating within the context of a pandemic was challenging for all museums and Rough Point Museum was no exception. The museum staff's top priority in 2020 was the provision of quality (and safe) educational experiences despite the unprecedented circumstances that required most of us to stay home. With the museum unable to open to the public as scheduled, NRF staff were determined to get creative. They learned new skills like filming and video editing in order to help bring audiences together when people needed it the most. In March 2020, NRF launched a new YouTube channel to share video content and educational programming. The channel premiered several video series such as *The Myth & Mystique of Doris Duke*, *Jazz in the House*, *Rough Point Unseen*, *Museum Close-Ups*, as well as many more.

As required by the state, we closed Rough Point

to the public for three months, from March to June. In June, public health officials allowed museums to operate at a restricted capacity, and the museum reopened first as a grounds-only experience, then the house reopened for self-guided tours in July. The museum remained open until the end of the year, but programs and events took place virtually. Staff worked diligently to ensure compliance with the State of Rhode Island's public health regulations, including requirements regarding social distancing, mask-wearing, and routine sanitization. Safety of guests and staff was of the utmost importance.

Not surprisingly, the early-season closure of the museum had an impact on visitation. In 2019, over 20,000 guests visited the museum; in 2020, we received less than 7500

ROUGH POINT 2020 PROGRAMS

- The Myth & Mystique of Doris Duke (From Home): Nanaline Duke
- Virtual Yoga in the Yard
- The Myth & Mystique of Doris Duke's Pets
- Jazz in the House
- The Myth & Mystique of Doris Duke: Collecting & Women Collectors
- Spotlight Talks
- Newport Schools Night
- Roam Around Rough Point: Halloween Edition
- A Rough Point Holiday

visitors. Despite this reduction in in-person visitation, we were able to engage virtually with audiences from all over the world. The videos on NRF's YouTube channel received total views of 27,871 during 2020 alone, and people throughout the community and beyond continue to watch and share the content widely.

Whitehorne House MUSEUM



Because of the pandemic, Whitehorne House Museum delayed reopening its doors to the community until July. Like at Rough Point, NRF staff worked diligently to ensure that the museum was a safe environment for visitors per the State of Rhode Island public health guidelines.

The museum continued to offer free admission for Newport County residents and welcomed a total 564 visitors during the abbreviated season.

PRESCOTT FARM 2020 PROGRAMS

- Virtual Yoga in the Yard
- Monthly Second Sundays (April through November)



In 2020, Prescott Farm provided a refuge for those seeking safe, outdoor experiences. Nonetheless, all programs and events, including monthly Second Sunday programs, were held virtually. A dedicated team from the University of Rhode Island's Master Gardener program continued to care for Prescott Farm's kitchen and herb gardens. During the fall of this year, the Master Gardeners grew over 200 pumpkins of three different varieties, which we donated to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center.

WHITEHORNE HOUSE 2020 PROGRAMS

- Furniture Inside Out: The Dressing Table
- Virtual Yoga in the Yard
- Whitehorne House Museum Presents: Ministers of Apollo



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preservation Perseveres



While COVID-19 put a halt to many aspects of our everyday lives, maintenance at NRF's historic houses can never cease. The Preservation Crew continued to be hard at work painting, restoring windows, performing exterior carpentry repairs, maintaining HVAC systems, and more.

They performed these tasks while adhering to a new set of COVID-19 protocols designed to uphold their health and safety as well as that of our tenant-stewards.

During the summer, NRF's Preservation Crew carried out comprehensive exterior maintenance at the Sisson Collins House (40 School Street). Along with the anticipated cyclical carpentry and paint failures due to age, this property suffered from additional damage due to the positioning,

type, and extent of the surrounding vegetation. The landscaping accompanying a historic building is a major factor in its long-term preservation. Overgrown bushes inhibit the proper drying of building fabric, crawling vines attach themselves to foundations and creep underneath clapboards, and overgrown trees cause damaging bio growth on roofs. All of this creates carpentry and paint failure, accelerating the deterioration and loss of historic building fabric (shown here to the right). After the crew completed the necessary repairs, the home received a fresh coat of beautiful Prussian Blue paint. NRF documented the restoration for an episode of our virtual Preservation Pop-up series, which premiered in November on NRF's YouTube channel.

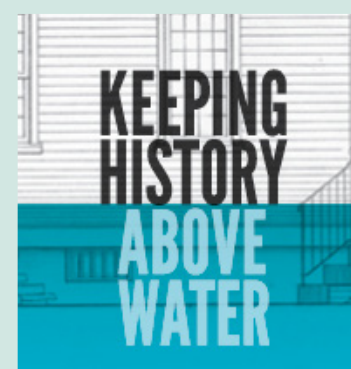


Keeping History Above Water

For the first time, NRF intended to expand our *Keeping History Above Water* initiative to an international audience with a workshop in Barbados scheduled for March 16, 2020. Ten days before the workshop, the Caribbean Heritage Network realized it had no choice but to cancel the program.

Nevertheless, NRF remained busy. In May 2020, an agreement was signed to work with partners in Charleston to convene *Keeping*

History Above Water: Charleston in March 2021 (subsequently rescheduled to June 2021). In July 2020, another agreement was signed to work with partners in Norfolk to convene *Keeping History Above Water: Norfolk* in May 2022. Although our Norfolk partners would wait until 2021 to begin planning their conference, NRF enjoyed engaging in the planning process with our Charleston partners throughout the latter half of 2020.



Celebrating Preservation Excellence in Newport

NRF convened the 14th Annual Doris Duke Historic Preservation Awards differently in 2020. On Friday, September 11, the event was presented virtually on our YouTube page. Through a short video presentation, our virtual event guests were able to get a behind-the-scenes view, and learn more about the restoration or rehabilitation of these properties. This new event format allowed the property owners and contactors to share their passion for taking on these projects.

NRF recognized the following projects:

BankNewport (1930), Newport, RI

Awarded to BankNewport; recognized for the rehabilitation of a 90-year-old bank in Newport's Washington Square (pictured left). The structure was built between 1929 and 1930 and was designed with the intent to blend in seamlessly with its neighbors and the character of the square. When the building was recently evaluated for a new HVAC system, it was decided that the entire space should be rehabilitated. BankNewport determined that maintaining the branch's historical integrity while balancing modern amenities was of the utmost importance. Highlights of the rehabilitation included mechanical and electrical updates, HVAC system replacement, exterior masonry restoration, and recreations of the building's original artistry by local artisans such as hand-painted gold-leaf lettering on the exterior, ornate interior ceiling details, and the lobby's decorative plaster. Ultimately, the building was carefully rehabilitated and restored in order to continue serving the exact purpose it was built for decades ago – as a community bank.

Edgar House "Sunnyside" (1885), Newport, RI

Awarded to Susan and Peter Metzger; recognized for rehabilitating and restoring an early example of brick colonial revival architecture



(pictured above). The house was built by the renowned architectural firm of McKim, Mead, & White between the years 1884 and 1886. In 2018, the house was purchased by Susan and Peter Metzger as a two-family home in need of preservation. Exterior restorations included repairing 20 wood columns, masonry, steps, and walkways. The 13 third floor dormers were all repaired and the roof was replaced. Inside, systems were upgraded, bathrooms were renovated, and a large-scale ceiling mural was also restored. In addition, the house was painted and the wood was refinished. After extensive work, Sunnyside is once again a stately one-family home.

International Tennis Hall of Fame: Frieze Restoration (1879-81), Newport, RI

Awarded to the International Tennis Hall of Fame (ITHOF); recognized for the restoration of a lost portion of historic fabric unique to the Newport Casino

located on Bellevue Avenue (pictured right). ITHOF is dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the Newport Casino, which is where the museum resides. During the 20th century, the Newport Casino's decorative "frieze," or a horizontal board of sculpted or painted decoration, was replaced. Fortunately, many of the original frieze medallions were salvaged and stored at the museum. Due to their significant level of deterioration, the original medallions were not able to be reinstalled. Instead, 38 new circular and semicircular ornate medallions were hand carved to match the original size, motif, and carving techniques using historic photos and drawings. This project not only restored the historic frieze, it restored a portion of Newport's past for all who pass through Newport's downtown.



We are grateful to our committed donors and friends who supported the event in this new format. With your help in this challenging environment, over \$66,000 was raised to sustain NRF's historic preservation efforts. We especially would like to thank our Platinum sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Berkowitz, III, Ms. Edith McBean, and James and Alice Ross, for their generosity.

THE DORIS DUKE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Thank You to our 2020 Donors

\$15,000 and above

Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer Berkowitz, III
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
Ms. Edith McBean

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Ross

\$5,000 - \$9,999

AR Global Investments LLC
Peter and Susan Metzger
Preserve Rhode Island
Rhode Island Council for the Humanities

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Dory and Dan Benson
DBVW Architects
Mr. John D. Harris II and Ms. Linda Sawyer
Ms. Stefani Hulitar
Mr. Philip C. Marshall
Mrs. Juliette Clagett McLennan
Slocum, Gordon & Co. LLP
Mrs. John A. van Beuren

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Mr. and Mrs. Armin B. Allen
BankNewport
Dr. Holly M. Bannister and Mr. Douglas L. Newhouse
Bowen's Wharf Co., Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Duncan A. Chapman
Kim and Glenn Darden
Mr. Patrick Dolat
Anne and Matt Hamilton
Victoria L. Mele
George and Susan Petrovas
Mark and Elizabeth Thompson*
Diane B. Wilsey

\$500 - \$999

M. Therese Antone, RSM
B.R. Arnold Construction Co. Inc.
Brewster Thornton Group Architects
Brian Buckley
Mrs. Maia Farish*
Farrar Associates, Inc. Construction Managers
Nicole Marie Finnen*
Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Fisher
Bob and Wini Galkin Fund
Lloyd and Hope Griscom*
Mr. and Mrs. George G. Herrick
Ivy Wealth Management
Joseph Gnazzo Company, Inc.
Christine MacDonald and Steven Fielding
Thomas S. Michie
Peter J. Portney*
Diana Prince
Sandra Liotus Lighting Design, LLC
Diana Pearson Scheetz
Mr. and Mrs. Archbold D. van Beuren
Carl Vernlund
Susan Baker Watts

\$250 - \$499

Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. John Bach-Sorensen
Benjamin Bergenholtz*
Ms. Sallie Bingham
Mrs. E. Taylor Chewning
Citrin Cooperman & Company, LLP
Mr. and Mrs. Tylor Field, II
Mr. Mikel Folcarelli and Mr. John Gwynne
Ms. Jane Gilgun*
Gustave White Sotheby's International Realty
Katherine Hoepfner-Karle
Helen Burnham Jacobs & George Mumford Jacobs
Mr. and Mrs. Paul LaBranche*
Mr. and Mrs. Earl McMillen, III
Mr. James Richardson
Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace

Up to \$249

Anonymous (4)
Jenna Allesandro
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Anton
Ann E. Arnold
Mr. Lockett Ford Ballard, Jr.*
Ms. Cynthia Barton*
Dawn Elizabeth Behrmann Robbins
Diane Belden
Bryan Bennica, Jr
Michael Berman
Charlotte H. Biddle
Carolyn and Andy Bjork
Priyanka and Andrew Bobenski
Richard and Barbara Booth
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Brice
Captain and Mrs. Nicholas Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Buckley
Mr. and Mrs. Ross S. Cann, Jr.
F. Cardoza Painting Co.
Roderick A. Cavanaugh
Dean Chapin*
Ms. Alicia T. Cipriano
Crete Clifford
Garrett H.C. Colmorgen, M.D.
Ms. Patricia J. Conrad
Juan and Christina Corradi
Lilly Dick
Erin O'Gara Dollard
Dr. and Mrs. J. Richard Durnan
Mr. and Mrs. James G. Dusty
Mr. Ronald Lee Fleming
Mr. Robert Franz and Ms. Almira Kasemi-Franz
Charles E. Gardner
Dr. Vasant Gideon
Marry Gormally
Miriam Greenberg
Patrick and Cristina Greeven
Beverly Gudanowski*
William F. Haggerty*
Prof. and Mrs. John B. Hattendorf
Eric and Sarah Hertfelder*
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Higgerson*
Jenifer Kay Hood*
Laurie Houle
Joya Granbery Hoyt
Mary M. Jennings

Brian Jepson
Ruth Jernigan
Ms. Charlotte Johnson
Steffanie Keim
Mr. Thomas J. Kennedy
Farrah Kleiner
Jeffrey F. Koehl
Mr. Douglas Kohler and Ms. Rebecca Bertrand
Sally LaBonte*
Donna LaGatta-Kleinberg*
Kenneth and Elaine Lindh
Richard C. Loeb, Jr.
Melissa Macri and Nancy Meyer
Lisa Manuel
Mr. Patrick Martin
Bryan Matthew McCorry
Bob and Puffy Meikle
Pierre F. V. Merle
Elizabeth and Sarah Minifie
Kiki Mitchell
Brad Michael Moreau*
Linda Naiss
Richard Nesper
John J. O'Brien, M.D.
Ronald J. Onorato
Jay J. Page
Laura Freedman and David Pedrick
Mr. Adam Podbielski*
Mr. Glen J. Pyewell
Mr. Peter Raposa
John P. Ritzcovan
Mr. Michael Robey*
Mr. Peter William Robey
Brady M. Schofield and Sarah Bullock
Julia and Sean Driscoll
Major General and Mrs. Stephen R. Seiter
Nancy Serpa
Cynthia Sinclair
Ken Snyder*
Mr. Dennis E. Stark and Mr. Robert F. Amarantes
Ms. Alice E. Stokes
Ms. Laurie Stroll
Mr. David Tattle*
Karen Michelle Vann
Jill E Voyer*
Robert S. Walker
Jeremy and Amy Wintersteen
Mr. and Mrs. David Wixted

* Thank you to participants in our Restoration Partners program



FINANCIALS

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash	8,292,699
Accounts & other receivables	40,620
Contributions receivable	2,442,080
Inventory	71,920
Prepaid expenses	167,169
Total current assets	11,014,488
Assets restricted to investment in property and equipment	
	244,640
Property and Equipment	38,569,739
Less accumulated depreciation	18,166,687
Net property and equipment	20,403,052
Investments	4,321,282
Total Assets	35,983,462

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:	
Current portion of long-term debt	124,900
Accounts payable	523,187
Accrued expenses	177,564
Total current liabilities	825,651
Long-term debt, less current portion	0
Security deposits	158,511
Enironmental remediation obligations	306,653
Total liabilities	1,290,815
Net assets:	
Unrestricted	26,367,753
Temporarily restricted	8,324,894
Total net assets	34,692,647
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	35,983,462

Statement of Activities December 31, 2020

Changes in unrestricted net assets:	
Operating revenue and support:	
Rental income and related charges	2,192,420
Retail sales	11,784
Admission income	102,158
Interest and dividend income	38,599
Special events	66,486
Program income	730
Grants and Contributions	50,812
Other revenue and support	116,453
Total:	2,579,442
Net assets released from restrictions	1,937,657
Total unrestricted revenue and support from operations and net assets released from restrictions	4,517,099
Program expenses:	
Rough Point	2,535,801
Rental property	2,366,761
Whitehorne	77,278
Prescott Farm	42,251
Queen Anne Square Maintenance Trust	5,458
Total program expenses:	5,022,091
Supporting services expenses:	
Administration	507,132
Special events	7,933
Total supporting services	515,065
Total expenses:	5,537,156
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets from operations	(1,020,057)
Nonoperating revenue (expenses) and support:	
Investment income, net	476,923
Net gain (loss) on disposal of assets	27,891
Net assets released from restrictions	301,031
Total nonoperating revenue and support	805,845
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	(214,212)
Net assets with donor restrictions:	
Grant Contributions	2,862,857
Investment income, net	9,830
Net assets released from restrictions	(2,238,688)
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	624,169
Change in net assets	409,957
Net assets - beginning	34,282,690
Net Assets - Ending	34,692,647

Thank you to our Board of Trustees

Mr. James H. Ross - President

Dr. M. Therese Antone, RSM - Treasurer

Ms. Victoria Mele - Secretary

Mr. Armin Allen

Ms. Amelia Berkowitz

Ms. Maia Farish

Mr. Philip C. Marshall

Ms. Edith McBean

