







## *A Letter from the Director*

2018 was a very interesting time at NRF. As the organization prepared to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, it also hired a new Executive Director. I started in February and – as these things tend to go – I became the leader of a group of hardworking and dedicated employees, all of whom knew much more about the organization than I did. Somehow, we made it all work.

What I learned about NRF in 2018 is that we have a remarkably multifaceted mission. As the fourth largest taxpayer in Newport, we continue to preserve more than 70 houses on Aquidneck Island. We operate museums and care for open spaces. We focus attention on the threat to historic resources posed by sea level rise and climate change. We offer programming on a myriad of topics.

Fortunately, we know that we are not alone in our efforts to protect the exemplary quality of life here on the Island. You have been with us every step of the way. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and NRF's employees, I thank you for reading this report, taking an interest in our organization, and supporting our initiatives. Together, we will continue to strive to make a difference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Thompson'.

Mark Thompson  
Executive Director





# Celebrating 50 Years

In 2018, Newport Restoration Foundation acknowledged a milestone anniversary. Our organization reached 50 years since its incorporation in October of 1968.

When Doris Duke founded NRF 50 years ago, Newport looked very different than it does today. She cared about saving the community's architectural heritage. As stewards of the largest collection of early American houses in the country, we are in a unique position to identify new threats to preservation, find solutions, and educate our neighbors and ourselves about the steps we must take to protect historic properties into the future.

Doris Duke founded the Newport Restoration Foundation in direct response to the need for urban renewal. Today, the city faces many new challenges, including the growing impact of sea level rise and climate change on our historic neighborhoods. Since 2014, NRF has been working with scientists, preservationists, community members, and policy makers to begin adapting to a changing climate. From these partnerships, *Keeping History Above Water* was created as a conference and has expanded to include activities related to climate and cultural heritage across Rhode Island and around the world.

NRF continues Doris Duke's legacy into the 21st century, working on house restorations, public programs, historical research, and other initiatives that preserve, promote, and invest in the architectural heritage of the Newport community, the traditional building trades, and Doris Duke's art collections. In this next chapter, we hope to deepen our role in Newport and continue to make this city a meaningful place to live, work, and visit.

NRF celebrated and shared this special birthday with the community through yearlong projects, campaigns, exhibitions, and events in an effort to raise awareness of NRF and share the work we have accomplished, as well as the work we hope to accomplish, in the next 50 years to come.



## IN 50 YEARS....

85 properties restored

74 historic properties  
rented and on the tax rolls

2 public parks

2 museum properties

350,000 museum visitors



## Happy Birthday NRF!

NRF celebrated its 50th birthday with the Newport community and beyond on October 24, 2018. On this day, Rough Point Museum opened with free admission to the public, and NRF also held a free birthday celebration at the William Vernon House on Clarke Street for the public to enjoy. At this open house event, guests learned about the history of NRF, viewed the home's fascinating Chinoiserie panels, and enjoyed some birthday cake.

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating, and to all of those who have visited our museums and supported our preservation efforts over the past 50 years, we thank you as well. We could not do it without you. Cheers to the next 50 years!







## Preservation in Newport

# A New Look for NRF

As NRF reached its 50th birthday, it was apparent that it was time for a facelift. A 10-year-old website and 50-year-old logo were in urgent need of a refresh, and the organization was ready to start its next 50 years with a new look. The rebranding process began in 2017 with Design Agency from Pawtucket, Rhode Island. NRF and Design Agency took a deep dive into what we wanted to communicate about NRF and how could we make it easier for others to learn about who we are.

Together, we determined that at our core existence the preservation and protection of our homes always comes first. That mission was what our founders originally intended it to be, and our crew and their expertise truly make the organization tick. It is because of this work that we are then able to share our homes with the community through our tenant steward program. We also are able to share our historic homes through our museum properties. Opening our doors to the community became a pillar of our work and message.

## What's New?

Using this positioning, we developed a new website, logo, and brand design that merged the old with the new. To ensure that this new look and feel was reflected across the entire organization, NRF created a comprehensive rollout plan. The staff implemented a new color scheme of forest and Pell greens as well as a new typography style guide across all NRF branded materials.

With the goal of uniting the different parts of Newport Restoration Foundation, it was important to update all collateral to present a consistent and cohesive appearance both internally and externally. Some of these updated items included rack card and print collateral, advertising, flags and signage, t-shirts for NRF Crew and new merchandise.



## A Lasting Logo

The NRF logo was originally created by Fudd Benson of the John Stevens Shop in Newport, RI. The studio is world renowned for their stone carving and lettering work, with some of their most well-known projects being the Vietnam Veterans and J.F.K. Memorials in Washington D.C., and the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) logomark. Our designers at Design Agency who were charged with our brand refresh believed the history of the NRF mark was significant to the character of the organization, and decided to consult with Fudd himself on how the mark could be revitalized for modern times.

The original design of the NRF mark had a border around it, shown below. Design Agency felt that freeing the mark to stand-alone would make it stronger in its simplicity, while also giving it flexibility for various applications across multiple mediums and platforms. The result is a mark that still stands the test of time.



*Before*



*After*



# ROUGH POINT MUSEUM



2018 was an exciting year for Rough Point that marked the start of a series of changes that would help increase accessibility and create more opportunities for the community to experience the museum. The season kicked off with not one but two exhibitions this year: *‘To Preserve and Restore’: Newport Restoration Foundation at 50* and *Designing for Doris: David Webb Jewelry and Newport’s Architectural Gems*. This was the first year the museum had developed two different exhibitions to be on view simultaneously.

Unlike prior years, Rough Point operated on a full regular season schedule – Tuesday through Sunday – from April to November. The museum also added a \$5 grounds only pass to offer easy access to our wonderful gardens and panoramic ocean views. Rough Point also received a formal new name during our rebranding process: Rough Point Museum. All advertising, collateral and design were updated to reflect our refreshed appearance.

In 2018, Rough Point Museum saw the most visitation since its opening in 2000. The

museum had 20,205 visitors experience the house, exhibitions, programs, grounds, and gardens. Rough Point opened its doors to the entire community several times throughout the season, with participation in Newport County Free Days in June, and opening for free to the public for our 50th Birthday Celebration on October 24. These free admission days brought in over 500 guests each day. We also expanded our reach to the community by offering free passes through the Newport Public Library, and continuing our 10-year relationship with Newport Public Schools. NRF was the beneficiary of a grant from the Newport Public Education Foundation, which funded Rough Point visits for over 290 students from Newport Public School 4th grade, 8th grade, and high school art classes.



## Exhibitions

NRF held two exhibitions at the Rough Point Museum galleries this year: *Designing for Doris: David Webb Jewelry and Newport’s Architectural Gems* and *‘To Preserve and Restore’: Newport Restoration Foundation at 50*.

*‘To Preserve and Restore’: NRF at 50* spotlighted the history of Newport Restoration Foundation since its early beginnings to today. The exhibition focused on three central themes/questions: What did Newport look like in 1968 and why was there a need for NRF? Who were the people who made it happen and how did the work of NRF change over time? And, what do the next 50 years look like for Newport and NRF? The exhibition featured a variety of archival documents, photographs, and objects that tell the story of NRF from the perspective of the people who made the organization what it is today.



*Designing for Doris* was a collaboration between NRF and David Webb New York, jewelry designer to NRF’s founder, Doris Duke, and many other prominent figures from 1948 to the present. The exhibition highlighted the parallels between seemingly dissonant archival materials: exacting hand-drawn architectural plans and painterly sketches of bespoke jewelry. Thirty drawings, several pieces of David Webb jewelry, and related artifacts occupied a single jewel box gallery, underscoring the breadth of Duke’s diverse interests and her transformative influence in art, design, and preservation from the late 1950s through the 1970s.



## EVENTS

Throughout the 2018 season, NRF celebrated its 50th anniversary with events that looked back at – and sometimes revived – what Doris Duke and others were up to around the time of its founding.

- Party Like It’s 1968
- Closet Tour:  
Doris Duke’s 1960s Wardrobe
- I Dare You: A Musical Suite  
Dedicated To Doris Duke
- Newport County Free Days
- Ask a Gardener
- Gene Smith’s Sink and the Mid-Century Underground Jazz Scene
- Newport Schools Night
- A Closer Look at Designing for Doris, Curator’s Tour & Open House
- NRF’s Golden Birthday
- Colonial Survival and Modern  
Revival: Newport in the 1960s
- Roam Around Rough Point:  
Halloween Edition
- A Rough Point Holiday



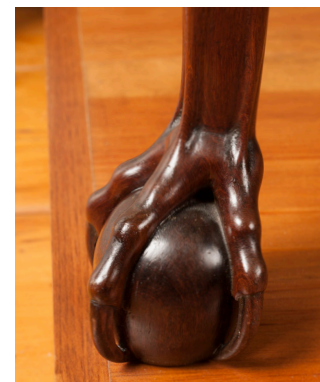


# Whitehorne House MUSEUM

## Rethinking Whitehorne House

Newport Restoration Foundation's Whitehorne House Museum is the only museum in the world dedicated to displaying and exploring the artistry, history, and culture of 18th-century Newport furniture and related decorative arts. The museum closed in 2017 in order to develop a new approach to its interpretation and a plan for revitalizing the museum and the visitor experience. The NRF staff continued this rethinking and reinterpretation project through 2018. The museum remained closed for this year, but opened periodically for public events, which continued to inform its transformation. The museum staff presented on the project at the New England Museum Association conference in November in an open forum session entitled *Rethinking Whitehorne House Museum and the Revitalization of a Uniquely Newport Collection*. Gathering feedback from the community and colleagues helped to spotlight that a more user friendly, interactive, and overall more welcoming environment was needed to bring Whitehorne House Museum into the new age of modern museums.

Whitehorne House Museum also updated all collateral and design aspects to adopt the new NRF branding and style guide. NRF Staff plans to reopen the museum to the public in May of 2019.



## EVENTS

- 2018 Lecture Series (with Jeffrey Greene):
  - Local Manufacture, Global Fusion: Surveying Early American Furniture
  - The Townsend & Goddard Dynasties: 18th-Century Cabinetmaking in Newport
  - New Discoveries in Newport Furniture
- Three Summer Open House Events
- Workshopping the Collection: Newport's Cabinetmaking Tradition
- Workshopping the Collection: Identifying Legendary Newport Cabinetmakers





# PRESCOTT *farm*

## Fun at the Farm

Prescott Farm preserves 40 acres of open space, a tribute to the agrarian heritage of Aquidneck Island. The site is open daily from dawn to dusk for public enjoyment. Prescott Farm's kitchen and herb gardens are tended to by a dedicated team from University of Rhode Island's Master Gardener program and our living laboratories showcase the marriage of colonial horticultural practices with more modern gardening techniques. This year on the first Sunday of every month, the Master Gardeners prepared special talks on various topics related to gardening, soils, history, as well as practical advice for your own garden.

In 2018, Prescott Farm provided a diversity of experiences for over 1,000 visitors, showcasing its Revolutionary War era history and the lifestyles, foodways and structures of that period. This included a variety of audiences from school groups, Road Scholar, and the general public. This year, Prescott Farm participated in the Aquidneck Island Nature Collaborative Scavenger Hunt in which the farm was a stop on a passport that encouraged visitation to nature landmarks on Aquidneck Island. The site also held two Stone Wall Workshops to teach the art of traditional stone wall construction. Finally, we refreshed Prescott Farm's logo, and updated all collateral and design aspects to conform with the new NRF branding and style guide.







# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

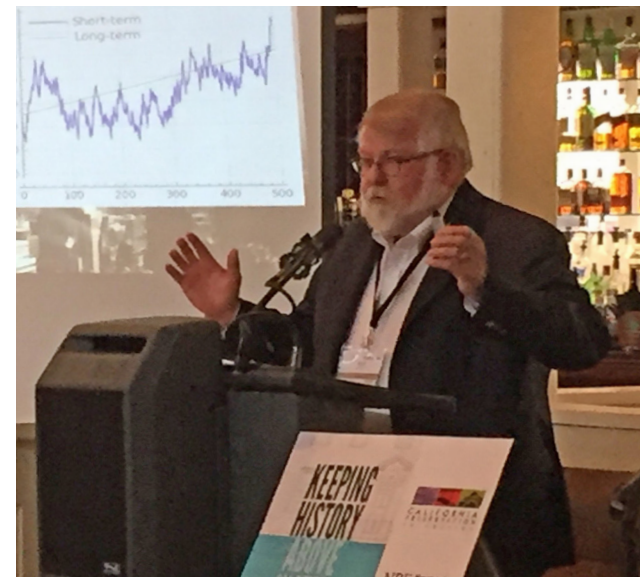
## *Keeping History Above Water: West*

In 2018, NRF took *Keeping History Above Water* to the west coast. We joined the California Preservation Foundation for a third *Keeping History Above Water*™ convening that took place on May 17, 2018 in Palo Alto, California, as a pre-conference workshop of the California Preservation Foundation's 2018 conference, *Deep Roots in Dynamic Times*. This workshop was the third event, and first West Coast gathering of preservation, planning, economic development, and other cultural resource and scientific experts aimed at helping communities prepare for the impact of rising tides, sea level rise, and other circumstances related to climate change.

*Keeping History Above Water*™ is Newport Restoration Foundation's climate change initiative. NRF organized and hosted the first conference in Newport, Rhode Island in April 2016, and a second conference, *Keeping*

*History Above Water: Annapolis*, was convened in late 2017 in Annapolis, Maryland, in partnership with the city's leadership and Annapolis' Weather-It-Together program.

*Keeping History Above Water: West* featured remarks, sessions, breakout groups and discussion, including speakers Julianne Polanco, California Office of Historic Preservation; Adam Markham, Union of Concerned Scientists; Anthony Veerkamp, National Trust for Historic Preservation; January Tavel, ICF; Will Travis, formerly of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; Michael Newland, Environmental Sciences Associates; Andrew Galvan, Local Ohlone Tribal Scholar; Robert Melnick, MIG; Vida Germano, National Park Service; Bradford Case, IEM; Lisa Craig, Michael Baker International; and Winslow Hastie, Historic Charleston Foundation.







# DORIS DUKE PRESERVATION AWARDS

NRF hosted the 12th annual Doris Duke Preservation Awards on Friday, September 7, 2018 on a beautiful evening at Rough Point. Over 160 guests came together to commemorate and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Newport Restoration Foundation and recognize three restoration and rehabilitation projects for their contributions in preserving Newport's architectural heritage and character. John Peixinho received special recognition with the Distinguished Stewardship award, for being the inspiration behind the event. Over \$66,000 was raised in support of NRF's efforts in historic preservation.

The following projects were honored:

**The Cattle Crib (1916)**, Beacon Hill Road, Newport, RI, Owned by Mark and Leslie Hull; recognized for the adaptive reuse of a former early twentieth century livestock pen, which had fallen into neglect during the past few decades. This historic farm building was completely renovated in an effort to bring back its original character, and is currently enjoyed by the property owners as a passive retreat.

**26 – 30 Washington Square (1931)**, Newport, RI, Awarded to GA Washington Square, LLC; recognized for successfully reinvigorating a commercial space in Washington Square. The project, completed in 2017, restored the exterior above the storefront, replaced windows, cleaned and repointed masonry, and replicated the missing gable ornament, while also remodeling the interior space.

**The Blue Garden (1911–1918)**, Beacon Hill Road, Newport, RI, Awarded posthumously to Dorrance “Dodo” Hill Hamilton; recognized for rebuilding an original historic landscape design to fit modern standards. The Blue Garden was first designed for Arthur Curtiss and Harriet Parsons James by Fredrick Law Olmstead Jr. In 2012, the property was purchased by Dorrance H. Hamilton, who began the restoration process. Today, the Blue Garden is open by appointment to those who are affiliated with a group or institutions involved in gardens, design, the arts, maintenance, horticulture, historic preservation, landscape architecture, architecture, and education.

The Awards sustains its success due to a dedicated committee and the guidance of its co-chairs, Victoria Mele, Christine MacDonald and Tracy Bach-Sorensen. Special thanks to our Platinum sponsors, Mr. & Mrs. Mortimer Berkowitz, III, Ms. Edith McBean, Ms. Lisette Prince, and Mr. James Ross, for generously supporting this annual event.





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# FINANCIALS

## Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2018

### ASSETS

#### Current assets:

Cash	1,468,900
Accounts & other receivables	15,901
Contributions receivable	2,233,120
Inventory	70,801
Prepaid expenses	168,266
Total current assets	3,956,988

Assets restricted to investment in property and equipment	398,000
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Property and Equipment	38,471,472
Less accumulated depreciation	16,220,231
Net property and equipment	22,251,241

Investments	8,498,100
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Total Assets	35,104,329
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### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

#### Current liabilities:

Current portion of long-term debt	14,815
Accounts payable	450,482
Accrued expenses	120,483
Total current liabilities	585,780

Long-term debt, less current portion	237,682
Security deposits	145,002
Enironmental remediation obligations	383,645
Total liabilities	1,352,109

#### Net assets:

Unrestricted	26,029,213
Temporarily restricted (Note 7)	7,723,007
Total net assets	33,752,220

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	35,104,329
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## Statement of Activities December 31, 2018

#### Changes in unrestricted net assets:

Operating revenue and support:	
Rental income and related charges	2,017,156
Retail sales	11,547
Admission income	312,064
Interest and dividend income	24,199
Special events	121,147
Program income	24,262
Grants and Contributions	52,134
Other revenue and support	21,373
Total:	2,583,882

Net assets released from restrictions	2,004,472
Total unrestricted revenue and support from operations and net assets released from restrictions	4,588,354

#### Program expenses:

Rough Point	2,463,174
Rental property	2,518,552
Whitehorne	57,216
Prescott Farm	45,490
Queen Anne Square Maintenance Trust	9,749
Total program expenses:	5,094,181

#### Supporting services expenses:

Administration	473,153
Special events	54,633
Total supporting services	527,786

Total expenses:	5,621,967
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Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets from operations	(1,033,613)
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#### Nonoperating revenue (expenses) and support:

Investment income, net	31,855
Net gain (loss) on disposal of assets	(1,800)
Net assets released from restrictions	207,596
Total nonoperating revenue and support	241,251

Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	(792,362)
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#### Net assets with donor restrictions:

Contributions	2,631,120
Investment income, net	6,690
Net assets released from restrictions	(2,212,068)
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	425,742

Change in net assets	(366,620)
Net assets - beginning	34,118,840
Net Assets - Ending	33,752,220