

Projects, people win preservation awards

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A vintage Providence diner, a sprawling mill complex in Coventry and a 144-year-old lighthouse overlooking Newport Harbor are among the winners of this year's Rhody Awards, which honor people and projects that advance the cause of historic preservation in Rhode Island.

The awards, which also highlight recent renovation efforts at the Dean Hotel, in Providence, and at Warwick City Hall, were announced Tuesday by the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission and Preserve Rhode Island.

In all, the groups cited eight renovation projects, as well as several preservation-friendly businesses and individuals:

■ **Antoinette F. Downing Volunteer Service Award** went to Fred T. Faria, of Scituate, who as a homeowner, grant-writer, advocate, volunteer and local watchdog has dedicated himself to preserving historic Hope Village.

■ **Frederick C. Williamson Professional Leadership Award** went to Carol Ann Nelson, recognizing her critical role in the care and stewardship of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence's irreplaceable historic buildings.

■ **Stephen J. Tyson Sr. Artisan Award** to East Coast Masonry & Restoration Inc., of Johnston, a family firm of craftsmen who have completed masonry restoration projects at some of the state's most significant historic structures, including the Rhode Island State House and Newport Colony House.

■ **Stewardship Award** to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence for protecting and preserving the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul (1878-89), culminating with an important restoration project on the building's 125th anniversary.

■ **Project Award** to Brady Sullivan Properties and

Starr Development Partners for converting the monumental Anthony Mill (1872-74) in Coventry into 122 apartments.

■ **Project Award** to Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation for the comprehensive preservation project that ensures the historic 1870 lighthouse will continue to be an enduring symbol of Newport's nautical heritage.

■ **Project Award** to Andrew Mitrelis for restoring the endangered Captain Joseph Tillinghast House (1767), a remnant of Providence's Colonial past.

■ **Project Award** to S. Jon Özbek for his effort to save, relocate and restore Poirier's Diner (1947) as a favorite neighborhood hub on Providence's West Side.

■ **Project Award** to 113 Westminster St. Associates for the redevelopment of The Arcade (1828), creating 48 micro-apartments and 17 stores in the heart of downtown Providence.

■ **Project Award** to ASH NYC and Clay Rockefeller for the historically sensitive rehabilitation of The Dean Hotel (1913) in downtown Providence.

■ **Project Award** to the City of Warwick for the restoration of Warwick City Hall (1892-94), including its iconic clock tower.

The awards will be presented on Sept. 28 at the Aldrich Mansion, 836 Warwick Neck Ave., in Warwick. The event, which will also include a special recognition of William McKenzie (Mack) Woodward, who is retiring after 38 years as principal architectural historian at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, will take place from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Rhode Island Preservation Celebration and Rhody Awards event is open to the public. Tickets cost \$30 before Sept. 24 or \$35 at the door. To buy a ticket or request more information, call (401) 272-5101 or visit www.preserveri.org.

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