2016 CONFERENCE PROGRAM
APRIL 10 - 13 | NEWPORT, RI

An International, Multi-disciplinary Conference on Saving Historic Structures & Neighborhoods In the Face of Rising Tides
NRF WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS

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WWW.HISTORYABOVEWATER.ORG

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THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN NEWPORT, THE “CITY BY THE SEA.”

Some fifteen months ago, Edith McBean, a trustee of Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF) posed a question during a board meeting, “What threat do the environment and historic preservation have in common?” My answer was quick, brief and concise, “sea level rise.”

Since then, a wonderful group of partners, staff and dedicated volunteers has put together the conference that you are now attending. In particular we all owe our thanks to Margot Nishimura, the Foundation’s Deputy Director, whose untiring and insightful efforts are what have made this conference the dynamic entity that it has become. And, familiar to all of you will be Kelsey Mullen, our Coordinator for Academic Programs, to whom we owe the smooth waters on which this gathering is sailing.

Our precious heritage in coastal communities throughout the country is facing a risk whose severity will only increase as time passes. We are not speaking of centuries, but of imminent decades and in many locations, a reality that is occurring now.

NRF is dedicated to preserving the unique cultural heritage of our historic coastal community, and we are thrilled to welcome so many people who are engaged in similar work in their own communities.

We created Keeping History Above Water because the environmental threats to coastal heritage sites will not hold off while we debate climate change or its causes. We are accepting the reality of sea level rise and seeking answers for how to mitigate its impact. This hits very close to home for us. In Rhode Island, close to 2,000 National Register-listed or -eligible properties are located in current coastal and estuarine flood zones. As sea levels rise, this number will only increase.

As the steward of many of these properties and as one of the country’s leading preservation organizations, NRF feels an obligation to help drive this conversation, locally and nationally. It is why our strategic planning created not only this conference, but also the larger concept of an Institute for the Study of Historic Preservation and Material Culture. This conference is the first major expression of that institute. It is our fervent hope that the lessons of these four days will be just the start to more comprehensive conversation and action.

Along with our distinguished partners, we look to you to help develop this dialogue, achieve a greater understanding of the risks, and formulate the strategies that will preserve our built heritage well into the future. The truest measure of success will be how the multi-disciplinary focus manifested in this conference program matures in the years to come.

On behalf of the Newport Restoration Foundation and the City of Newport, I welcome you to Keeping History Above Water. I believe you will find the next four days engaging and interactive, and I hope that you will leave feeling inspired and better prepared to make an impact in your community.

Thank you,

Pieter N. Roos
Executive Director
Newport Restoration Foundation
We will discuss some major concerns and debate the most effective solutions over the next four days. It is important that this conversation is not limited to those in the room.

Collectively, we can better advocate for action—in the historic preservation field and more broadly—toward greater resiliency.

HELP DRIVE THE CONVERSATION ONLINE.
Engage with conference participants, lawmakers, and colleagues through social media.

#HISTORYABOVESWATER
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<tr>
<th>DAY 1</th>
<th>WALKING TOURS &amp; EXCURSIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>12pm</td>
<td>Registration Opens (Pick up welcome packets or purchase tickets at the Registration Desk on Level 3 at the Marriott.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-5pm</td>
<td>Walking Tours &amp; Bus Excursions (For full description, see page 6.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30-6:30pm</td>
<td>Reception &amp; Rhode Island Resiliency Showcase</td>
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<td>6:30-8:30pm</td>
<td>Opening Dinner</td>
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<th>DAY 2</th>
<th>POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE</th>
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<tr>
<td>8-8:45am</td>
<td>Registration (Ballroom Foyer)</td>
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<td>8:45-9am</td>
<td>Welcoming Remarks</td>
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<td>10:30am-12pm</td>
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<td>12-1:30pm</td>
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<td>12:15-1:15pm</td>
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<td>12-1:30pm</td>
<td>Poster Displays (Marriott Atrium)</td>
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<td>1-3:30pm</td>
<td>74 Bridge Street Open Hours</td>
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<td>1:30-2pm</td>
<td>Mini-keynote</td>
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<td>4:00-5:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<th>DAY 3</th>
<th>ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES</th>
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<tr>
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<td>10:30am-12pm</td>
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<td>Panel #6</td>
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<td>4:45-5:45pm</td>
<td>Closing Roundtable</td>
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<td>Morning Coffee &amp; Registration (Foyer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9am-12pm</td>
<td>Workshop &amp; Seminar Sessions (Various locations)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-7pm</td>
<td>Community workshop at 74 Bridge Street, Newport, RI</td>
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*All events take place in The Marriott Ballroom, unless otherwise indicated.*
Day 1
SUNDAY, APRIL 10
SCHEDULE // TOURS & EXCURSIONS

12:00-all day
REGISTRATION
Marriott Ballroom Foyer (Level 3)
Check in; pick up registration packet

1:00-5:00pm
WALKING TOURS & EXCURSIONS
Meet in Marriott Lobby

5:30-6:30pm
OPENING RECEPTION
Marriott Atrium (Level 2)
Cocktail reception with a showcase of Newport organizations addressing environmental stewardship and resiliency.

6:30-8:30pm
DINNER
Marriott Ballroom (Level 3)
Welcome remarks: Pieter Roos, Executive Director, Newport Restoration Foundation and Edward P. Henry, President, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

All Tours Meet & All Shuttles Depart from Marriott Lobby
Free with conference registration

OPEN HOURS  1:00-5:00pm
74 Bridge Street ca. 1725
Walkable from Marriott
Visit any time, 1 to 5pm
Additional open hours: Mon. & Tues., 12 – 3pm

Hunter House ca. 1750
54 Washington St,
Walkable from Marriott
(Property of the Preservation Society of Newport County)

NRF Museum Properties
Shuttle departs from the Marriott Lobby on the hour, 1 pm–4 pm*
Rough Point ca. 1897
680 Bellevue Avenue
Landscape tours at 2pm & 4pm. Sign up at Rough Point front desk *Last shuttle pick-up from Rough Point: 5:00pm.
Whitehorne House ca. 1811
416 Thames Street
*Last shuttle pick-up from Whitehorne: 4:45pm.

WALKING TOURS  2:30pm
Depart from Marriott Lobby at 2:30pm; tours conclude at 4pm.

The Point Neighborhood
Home to craftsmen, merchants, religious dissenters and more. The Point Neighborhood has a rich colonial history. This tour includes a brief stop inside the parlor of the Christopher Townsend House (a.k.a 74 Bridge St.)

Bricks & Sticks
Discover the historic architecture of this exquisitely preserved city, from the colonial era to the Victorian splendor of lower Bellevue Avenue.

@NewportHistory #WalkNPT
- 3-minute walk from Marriott to open hours in The Point

- Areas of interest (see pg.19 for add’l ideas)

- For project overview of 74 Bridge Street, see pg.16
DAY 2
MONDAY, APRIL 11
POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

8:00-8:45am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION
Marriott Ballroom Foyer (Level 3)
Check in; pick up your registration packet

8:45-9:00am WELCOMING REMARKS
US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)

9:15-10am KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Introduction | Pam Rubinoff, Senior Coastal Manager, URI Coastal Resources Center

10:30am-12pm PANEL #1: US CASE STUDIES
Session Chair: Pieter Roos, Executive Director, NRF
Galveston: A History of Incredibly Violent Storms, Savvy Adaptations, and Unintended Consequences
Matthew Pelz, Center for Coastal Heritage Director, Galveston Historical Foundation

Weather It Together: Partnering to Protect a National Treasure
Lisa Craig, Chief of Historic Preservation, City of Annapolis

Planning for Action: Sea Level Rise & A Historic Barrier Island Community
Adrienne Burke, Community Development Director, Fernandina Beach, FL

LUNCH
Use your lunch hour to explore Newport, visit the 74 Bridge Street case study property, participate in a brown-bag workshop, view student and emerging professional poster displays. Boxed lunches for advanced registrants available in the Atrium, Level 2.

10-10:30am COFFEE BREAK
Ballroom Foyer

12:00-1:30pm LUNCH
Use your lunch hour to explore Newport, visit the 74 Bridge Street case study property, participate in a brown-bag workshop, view student and emerging professional poster displays. Boxed lunches for advanced registrants available in the Atrium, Level 2.

12:30pm-1:00pm Poster Displays | Student and Emerging Professionals (Marriott Atrium)

12:00-3pm 74 Bridge Street | Open Hours

12:15-1:15pm WORKSHOP
Lauren Carson, RI Representative, House District 75, Report from the RI House Special Study Commission on the Economic Impact of Sea Rise and Flooding in Rhode Island (Marriott Ballroom)

#HistoryAboveWater
1:30pm POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE: MINI-KEYNOTE
@SalveUnivCHP Introduction | Robert Russell, Professor, Cultural and Historic Preservation, Salve Regina University
@CoastArch Keynote | Tom Dawson, Scotland’s Coastal Heritage at Risk Project: A citizen science approach to national heritage

2:00-3:30pm PANEL #2: GLOBAL & HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS
Session chair: Frank G. Matero, Professor of Architecture, University of Pennsylvania
Well-designed Water Protection Measures as Future Cultural Heritage @mdbstedenbouw
Matthijs de Boer, City-planner-architect, Rotterdam
A Study of the Role of People in Saving the Historical Coastal City of Bushehr, Iran
Khosro Movahed, Professor of Architecture and Regional Planning, Shiraz Branch, Islamic Azad University, Iran
Troubled Waters: The role of practice-led research in understanding and documenting heritage loss
Sara Pennlyn Jones, Bath Spa University
Venice: They’re Fixing the Flooding, So Why Isn’t Venice Saved?
Anna Somers Cocks, Founding Editor and CEO, The Art Newspaper; former chair of Venice in Peril

3:30pm COFFEE BREAK
Marriott Ballroom

4-5:30 pm PANEL #3: INFORMING ACTION
Session chair: Stephen White, Dean of the School of Architecture, Art, and Historic Preservation, Roger Williams University
The Sea Doesn’t Preserve Unimpaired: The US National Park Service Program & Vision for Cultural Heritage and Climate Change
@ClimateNPS Marcy Rockman, Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator, National Park Service
@wbarchitects David Waggonner, President, Waggonner and Ball Architects
Resilient Preservation: In the Face of Climate Change
@SavingPlaces Jeana Wiser, Resilient Communities Manager, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Local Impacts, Global Solutions: Tapping Into the International Climate Change and Heritage Community of Practice
@AndrewSPotts Andrew Potts, Executive Director, US/ICOMOS
www.HistoryAboveWater.org/speakers
**D A Y 3**

**T U E S D A Y , A P R I L 1 2**

**ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES**

8:00-9:00am **CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION**
Marriott Ballroom Foyer (Level 3) Check in on-site; or pick up your registration packet.

8:45-9:00am **WELCOMING REMARKS**
#NewportRI Jeanne-Marie Napolitano, Mayor, City of Newport

9-10:00am **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
@rowemw Introduction | Margot Nishimura, Deputy Director, NRF
Keynote | Mary Rowe, Civic & Social Organization Leader
Community Resilience & Preserving the Built Environment

10:00-12pm **PANEL #4: STRUCTURAL ADAPTATIONS**
Session chair: Ashley Wilson, Graham Gund Architect, Historic Sites, National Trust for Historic Preservation
Silent and Unseen: Historic Water Infrastructure and Global Climate Change
Meisha Hunter Burkett, Senior Preservationist, Lil/Saltzman Architects (New York, NY)

Ain’t No Foundation High Enough: The Conundrum of Elevation
Lindsay S. Hannah, Project Manager, and Architectural Historian;
Kate Kuranda, Senior Vice President, R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc. (New Orleans, LA)

Making Decisions in the Context of Climate Change
Janet Cakir, Climate Change Adaptation and Socioeconomics Coordinator, National Park Service

Amphibious Architecture: Where Flood Risk Reduction Meets Climate Change Adaptation
Elizabeth English, Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Waterloo

12:00-1:30pm **LUNCH**
Use your lunch hour to explore Newport, visit the 74 Bridge Street case study property, or participate in the brown-bag workshop. Boxed lunches for advanced registrants available in the Atrium, Level 2.

12:15-1:15pm **WORKSHOP**
Queen Quet, Chieftess of the Gullah/Geechee Nation
We Culcha and de Sea: Lesson of Community Engagement from the Sea Islands’ Indigenous Gullah/Geechee (Marriott Ballroom)
12:00-3pm  **74 Bridge Street | Open Hours**

**1:30-3pm  PANEL #5: STRUCTURAL ADAPTATIONS**
*Session Chair: Dennis Carlberg, Sustainability Director, Boston University; co-chair, Sustainability Council at the Urban Land Institute*

74 Bridge St.: A case study of resiliency measures for an 18th-c. Newport house & neighborhood | Lisa Howe, Director, BCA New England (MA)
Stephanie Zurek, Associate, Union Studio (RI)

**3:30pm  COFFEE BREAK**
Ballroom Foyer

**3:30-4:45pm  PANEL #6: ADMINISTRATIVE TACTICS**
*Session Chair: Edward Sanderson, Executive Director & State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island*

Innovation in Resiliency Financing | Dan Nees, Environment Finance Center, University of Maryland
Joanne Throwe | Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Heritage and Climate Change: On challenges of communicating within and outside of the state on efforts to mitigate and manage climate change effects on historic resources | Mary Kate Ryan, State Survey Coordinator, New Hampshire Div. of Historical Resources

**5:00-6pm  CLOSING ROUNDTABLE: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED & WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**
*Session Chair: Cornelia Dean, veteran science writer and science editor (1997-2003), The New York Times; teaching fellow and writer-in-residence, Brown University*

Adam Markham | Deputy Director of Climate and Energy, Union of Concerned Scientists
John Englander | Oceanographer, consultant, author and sea level rise expert
Grover Fugate | Executive Director of the RI Coastal Resources Management Council
James Lindberg, Senior Director, Preservation Green Lab, National Trust for Historic Preservation

**www.HistoryAboveWater.org/speakers**
### Day 4
**Wednesday, April 13**

#### Workshops & Seminars

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00-9:00am</td>
<td><strong>MORNING COFFEE &amp; REGISTRATION</strong></td>
<td>Marriott Ballroom Foyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am-12pm</td>
<td><strong>WEATHER IT TOGETHER: A COMMUNITY-BASED ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE</strong></td>
<td>Courageous Room</td>
<td>Lisa Craig, Chief of Historic Preservation, City of Annapolis</td>
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<td>Karen Brown, Project Manager, City of Annapolis</td>
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<td>Michael Dowling, Project Architect</td>
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<td>John Englander &amp; Don Bain, International Sea Level Rise Institute</td>
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<td>Mohamad Farzan, NewPort Architecture, LLC</td>
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<td>Lori Ferriss, Building Conservation Associates, Inc.</td>
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<td>Lisa Howe, Building Conservation Associates, Inc.</td>
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<td>Douglas Kallfelz, Union Studio Architecture and Community Design</td>
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<td>Stephanie Zurek, Union Studio Architecture and Community Design</td>
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<td>Nell Ziehl, Chief of Pres. Planning, Education &amp; Outreach, Maryland Historical Trust</td>
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### Navigating Uncharted Waters: Disaster Planning for Historic Properties
- Jennifer Wellock, Architectural Historian, National Park Service
- Amanda Ciampolillo, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region III Mitigation Division
- Jenifer Eggleston, Grants Management Specialist, National Park Service, State, Tribal, and Local Plans & Grants
- Marcy Rockman, Climate Change Adaptation Coordinator, National Park Service

### Developing a Case Study of Mitigation Measures for the Christopher Townsend House
- Mohamad Farzan, NewPort Architecture, LLC
- Douglas Kallfelz, Union Studio Architecture and Community Design
- Stephanie Zurek, Union Studio Architecture and Community Design

The 74 Bridge Street Project is a case study of resiliency measures for preservation planning with a focus on the ca. 1725 Christopher Townsend House, owned by the NRF and located in Newport's historic Point Neighborhood, a National Landmark District.
9-10:25am
FREEDOM ROOM
@maringov

THE GAME OF FLOODS: PRESERVATION EDITION
Alex Westhoff, Planner, Marin County Community Development Agency

9-10:25am
BRISTOL 2nd floor (not on map)
@EFCUMD @MarylandDNR

INNOVATION IN RESILIENCE FINANCING
Dan Nees, Environment Finance Center, University of Maryland
Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

10:35am-12pm
BRISTOL 2nd floor (not on map)

FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION TOOLKIT
Roderick Scott, Certified Floodplain Manager, L & R Resources LLC
Louissette Scott, Director of the Department of Planning and Development for the City of Mandeville, LA

10:35am-12pm
COURAGEOUS ROOM
@ClimateNPS
@NPSParkCLP @NatlParkService

SITE SPECIFIC INUNDATION THREAT ASSESSMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
Amanda Babson, National Park Service, Northeast, Coastal Climate Adaptation Coordinator
Marilou Ehrler, Chief of Cultural Resources at Gateway National Recreation Area, National Park Service
Nigel Shaw, Northeast Region GIS Coordinator, National Park Service
SENATOR SHELDON WHITEHOUSE

United States Senator, Rhode Island
@SenWhitehouse
A graduate of Yale and University of Virginia Law School, Sheldon served as RI Director of Business Regulation before President Bill Clinton nominated him to be Rhode Island’s United States Attorney in 1994. He was elected RI Attorney General in 1998, and to the US Senate in 2006, where he and Rep. Henry Waxman formed a bicameral Task Force on Climate Change. As a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Sheldon has championed environmental causes. He founded the Senate Oceans Caucus to promote creative, bipartisan policy solutions that protect our oceans and coasts.

ADAM MARKHAM
Deputy Director of Climate and Energy, Union of Concerned Scientists
@UCSUSA
Adam Markham is Deputy Director of the Climate & Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). In 2014 he co-authored the UCS report “Landmarks at Risk,” which detailed how climate change is already impacting important and iconic historic and archaeological sites in the United States. Before joining UCS, Markham was President of Clean Air-Cool Planet, a non-profit organization he co-founded to promote innovative local solutions to climate change in the Northeast. Previously he directed World Wildlife Fund’s international climate campaign. A native of Britain, Markham earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology from the University of Wales at Swansea.

MARY W. ROWE
Civic & Social Organization Leader
@rowemw
Mary W. Rowe is an urbanist and civic entrepreneur in New York City, working with government, business, and civil society organizations to strengthen the economic, social, cultural, and environmental resilience of cities. She recently completed five years of work with the Municipal Art Society of NY, one of North America’s oldest civic institutions focused on the built environment. She did extensive community engagement work in New York City after Superstorm Sandy, and helped form the New Orleans Institute for Resilience and Innovation after Hurricane Katrina. Mary is also a frequent contributor to the international, interdisciplinary web platform, The Nature of Cities.

TOM DAWSON
Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion
@CoastArch
Tom Dawson is a Research Fellow at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. His research focuses on the archaeological and historical heritage of the coast and threats posed by climate change. He also works closely with the government agency Historic Environment Scotland. Tom is the Managing Director of the SCAPE Trust (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion), and manages Scotland’s Coastal Heritage at Risk Project. He is also a Trustee of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, and was on the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland until its dissolution in October 2015.
Reducing Flood Risk & Flood Insurance Policy Rates for Our Older Historic Buildings

This award-winning program will review flood risk, flood maps, the all-important Elevation Certificate, and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Examples of the two primary approaches to flood mitigation - dry flood-proofing and elevation - will be presented and evaluated. Crucially, this workshop will also address paying for these projects and the funding sources available.

Public Workshop, Free
5-7pm, Wednesday, April 13
74 Bridge St., Newport, RI

Do you want to protect your property and need an idea of where to start? Building owners must be the ones to initiate and complete flood mitigation projects on their buildings, yet there is very little information out there for the owners of older historic buildings built before flood mapping.

Two of our conference presenters, Roderick Scott, Certified Floodplain Manager, L & R Resources; and Louissette Scott, Director of the Department of Planning and Development for the City of Mandeville, are offering a free public workshop intended to give property owners a toehold in the world of flood risk management.

Building & Preserving South County:
The 31st Annual RI Statewide Historic Preservation Conference

The view from rear door of 74 Bridge Street—the Marriott in the background—October 28, 2012

Discover South County’s social, economic, & cultural history expressed by the built environment

Saturday, April 30, 8:15am-6pm
Wickford Middle School, 250 Tower Hill Rd, North Kingstown, RI

The 2016 statewide preservation conference, presented by the R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, considers the distinctive sense of place and culture in South County, RI. As part of the programming, which includes 12 workshops, 3 walking tours, 3 boat tours, and 7 bus tours of historic places in Exeter and North Kingstown, NRF Executive Director Pieter Roos will take part in a panel reporting on the Keeping History Above Water conference. This session will be followed by a walking tour for an on-the-ground exploration of how storm events and sea level rise impact historic resources on Wickford’s waterfront.

2-3:15pm | Keeping History Above Water: A Report from Newport

Teresa Crean, AICP, Coastal Community Planner, Coastal Resources Center/ R.I. Sea Grant at URI
Lisa Howe, Director, BCA New England
Pieter Roos, RIHPHC Commissioner and Executive Director, Newport Restoration Foundation
Douglas Kallfelz, AIA, Principal, Union Studio

The panel will recap and share fresh insights from Keeping History Above Water.

For more information, visit: www.preservation.ri.gov/conference
In fall 2015, Newport Restoration Foundation engaged Union Studio Architecture and Community Design (Providence, RI), Building Conservation Associates, Inc. (Newton, MA), and Mohamad Farzan (NewPort Architecture, LLC) to undertake a case study of mitigation measures that might be applied to the historic Christopher Townsend House (ca. 1725) at 74 Bridge Street.

The objective of the exercise was to outline interventions that would protect the house from tidal and storm flooding as well as from the threat of rising sea levels over the near and long terms, with the results to serve as a model for owners of similar homes, in equally threatened locations.

Early on in the process, it became evident that a case study such as this had to be considered within the context of the broader neighborhood. The effects of flooding and rising sea levels are not unique to 74 Bridge Street; they are issues that the neighborhood, the city, and the state need to consider as they chart a path forward for preservation of historic resources, knowing that the earth’s climate is rapidly changing.

The findings on exhibit at 74 Bridge Street are the result of a two-day charrette held on January 21 - 22, 2016 at the NRF’s Rough Point property. The charrette included a walk through of the Townsend House, a tour of the Point neighborhood, a presentation of existing conditions, and a series of break-out discussions, organized by neighborhood level vs. building level issues.

The exhibit at 74 Bridge Street documents and expands on the ideas that came out the two-day charrette process and adds to it further research and development. Your feedback on the results is welcomed!

TOUR 74 BRIDGE STREET & SEE THE CASE STUDY EXHIBIT:

Sunday, April 10, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 11, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 12, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Support for this project is being provided by a Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Grant through the Historic Preservation Fund of the National Park Service awarded by the R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. Additional funding has been awarded by the City of Newport under their Impacts of Sea Level Change: PILOTING Toward Solutions grant from the van Beuren Charitable Foundation.
The Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF) was founded in 1968 by philanthropist Doris Duke to preserve, interpret, and maintain Newport’s 18th- and 19th-century architectural heritage. For much of its almost 50 years the NRF has been a leader in historic preservation in Rhode Island and, increasingly, beyond. We currently own 78 historic structures—one of the largest collections of period architecture anywhere in the U.S.

In addition to our preservation efforts, NRF also owns and operates three museum sites: Doris Duke’s Rough Point mansion, filled with European paintings and decorative arts; Whitehorne House, a Federal period brick mansion that houses our collection of 18th-century Newport furniture; and Prescott Farm, 40 acres of preserved colonial landscape in Middletown, RI.

Tying this varied portfolio together is a central focus on education. Whether it’s our History Walking Tours, which we offer with the Newport Historical Society, simulations of General Prescott’s capture for middle schoolers at Prescott Farm, or academic lectures and symposia, NRF takes its programmatic mission seriously.

With Keeping History Above Water, as well as the 74 Bridge Street Resiliency Case Study project, you are experiencing the inaugural events of NRF’s Institute for the Study of Historic Preservation and Material Culture, which was proposed in our 2014 strategic plan and heartily endorsed by our Board of Trustees. Under the auspices of the Institute, NRF plans to offer residential fellowships, lectures, symposia, and, yes, more conferences of the size and reach of the one you are now attending.

While specific programmatic elements and physical location are still being determined, you can expect the Institute to bring together both scholars and practitioners to address the most challenging questions for our shared disciplines. Newport offers a considerable body of material and accumulated knowledge in the areas of historic preservation, architectural history, vernacular architecture, and early American material culture. With the launch of the Institute, NRF will increase its support for advanced research in all these fields and continue to provide a forum for collaborative problem solving around issues of most critical concern.

This conference presents just one example of the kind of topic we wish to address, and we hope to get your help in identifying other topics, as well as in pursuing answers. Stay tuned for more information in the coming year; and thank you for helping us to expand how NRF serves its many different communities.
WHILE YOU’RE HERE:
EXPLORE NEWPORT

AREA HIGHLIGHTS, WITH ESTIMATED WALKING DISTANCES FROM THE MARRIOTT

AMERICA’S CUP AVENUE/ THE WHARFS | (5-10 MIN. WALK)

Bowen’s Wharf: Explore the young vanguard of Newport’s restaurant scene, including Fluke Wine Bar, Diego’s, and 22 Bowen’s.

WASHINGTON SQUARE/ BROADWAY | (10-15 MIN. WALK)

JANE PICKENS THEATER: Newport’s art house cinema. Greek Revival-style art house (built in 1834) features indie films, classics & unique cinema events.

NEWPORT BICYCLE: Offers bike rentals and organized tours.

EMPIRE TEA & COFFEE: Flagship location for this local chain of gourmet coffee shops.

Long Wharf Mall: A cluster of shops and amenities, directly across from the Marriott, and right next to the Museum of Newport History (perfect starting point for exploring Newport present and past).

THAMES STREET | (UPPER THAMES: 5 MIN. WALK; LOWER THAMES: 15-30 MIN. WALK)

One Pelham East and Newport Blues Café (Upper Thames): These are the perfect places to find live music most nights.

Queen Anne Square (Upper Thames): A beautiful park and town common adjacent to several historical sites. Designed by Maya Lin and created by the NRF.

The Revolving Door (Lower Thames): Innovative restaurant features procession of guest chefs (hence the name), including chef battles and cocktail classes.

While you’re here, explore the small park and historic architecture like the Colony House, the fourth oldest statehouse in the US. It connects to Broadway, a stretch of hip, funky restaurants and bars favored by the locals.

THAMES STREET: Divided into Upper (which runs parallel to America’s Cup Ave.) and Lower Thames (which connects to the southern half of the city), this is the main drag for shopping, dining, and entertainment. You could spend a whole day on a long, leisurely stroll exploring all that Thames has to offer.

This beautiful thoroughfare is home to many of Newport’s most esteemed institutions and iconic tourist attractions.

Bellevue Avenue (30 Min. Walk)

The Redwood Library and Athenaeum: Founded in 1747, the oldest community library still occupying its original building in the US.

Mansions: The Breakers, The Elms, Rosecliff, Marble House, Rough Point, etc. These are some of the best known of Newport’s famed Gilded Age “summer cottages.”

International Tennis Hall of Fame: A must-see for any fan of the sport. Recently renovated, it features 13,000 square feet of exhibits.
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Newport Restoration Foundation
51 Touro Street, Newport, RI
www.newportrestoration.org