

# Preservation Society of Pawtucket

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## **PSP Mission Statement:**

The PSP, through educational programs and community service, shall discover, memorialize, and preserve the history and architecture of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

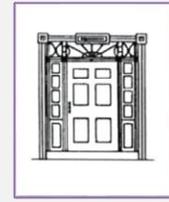
## **Updates**

### **2018 Annual Meeting**

Thank you all who attended our annual meeting and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in April. We had record attendance, with about 60 people attending Donna Houle's presentation, and more than 80 taking a ride on the Looff carousel. We're grateful to the Parks and Recreation Department and the RI Watercolor Society for hosting us. We're even more delighted that Donna Houle has been recognized by the Pawtucket Hall of Fame as Person of the Year! Donna has been busy since April. She successfully established the Friends of the Looff Carousel at Slater Park, a group of volunteers devoted to caring for the carousel so it will last well into the future. We must also recognize and thank John Blais, Director of Parks and Recreation, for being a dedicated steward of the carousel building.

### **2018 Tours and Programs**

During this past summer, with your support and participation, we were able to lead walking tours in Quality Hill, Pleasant View, Park Place, and Oak Hill (we had thirty people on the Oak Hill tour!). We also debuted a walking tour of Central Falls. We were honored to be invited to collaborate with the Rhode Island Historical Society to lead a new tour called Personally Pawtucket, and also with the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council and the Public Archaeology Laboratories to revise the Blackstone River Explorer Boat tour in Pawtucket. We had a lot of fun working on these activities and were very happy to meet many people interested in preserving Pawtucket's historical resources. We're looking forward to more collaborations next year.



## **Visit our Website**

You can find all of our walking tour notes, a list of historic marker houses, and more.

## **Donate**

We need your financial support to fulfill our mission. See our [website](#) for the [Donate](#) button or send your donations to our address. We would love to list your name as a donor in our next Annual Report.

## **Amazon Smile**

Your purchases on Amazon can help us. On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you will be asked to select an organization to support. The Amazon Smile Foundation will donate .5% of purchases to the organization you select.

## **Follow us on Facebook**

Our [Facebook](#) has real-time updates and bits of information that you might find interesting.

## **Paul Mowrey and Joseph Asermely Inducted into the Pawtucket Hall of Fame**

We are very excited to have our own Paul Mowrey inducted to the Hall of Fame this year! Below is the letter we submitted to nominate Paul.

“The Preservation Society of Pawtucket is nominating Paul Mowrey for the Pawtucket Hall of Fame. We truly believe that Paul’s commitment to Pawtucket has been significant and steadfast. Whether as an employee for the city or as a volunteer for community and civic organizations, Paul has been devoted to improving the city for more than three decades.

Paul worked as one of the city’s principal planners in the 1980s and 1990s and was a Senior Planner by the time he retired. In that capacity he facilitated programs to revitalize Pawtucket’s neighborhoods and communities, focusing a great deal on preserving the historical integrity of the city’s buildings and other structures. Since his retirement, Paul has been an active volunteer, giving his time and knowledge to the Friends of the Pawtucket Library, the Historic District Commission, and to the Preservation Society of Pawtucket.

Paul worked with Pawtucket History Research Center founder Elizabeth Johnson, whose research collection is now housed in the Pawtucket Library. Paul and Mrs. Johnson collaborated with the Rhode Island Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission to develop eight different history tours in Pawtucket. Paul led many walking tours throughout the city and he is known for having a vast knowledge of the city’s history. He is regularly consulted by groups and individuals looking for information about Pawtucket. Through these activities, Paul has shared the history and heritage of Pawtucket with many of the city’s residents and visitors.

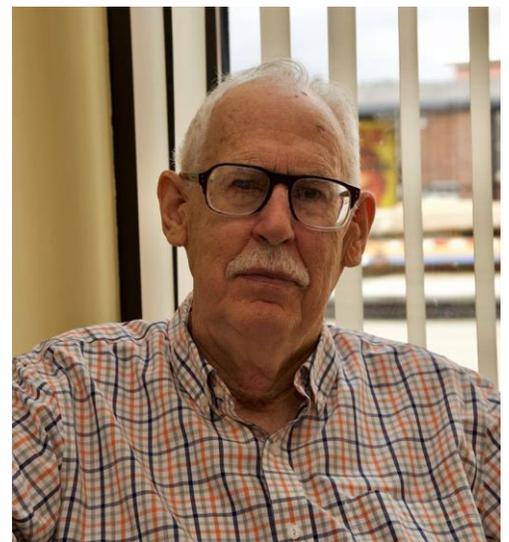
Paul has served the Preservation Society in many ways, as President, officer, board member, and as office manager. Perhaps the most visible role Paul had was as chair of our Historic House Marker Program. Paul identified and researched buildings, and facilitated the installations of historic marker plaques. On a walk or drive through any of Pawtucket’s neighborhoods, one can see the distinctive bronze plaques on more than 130 buildings, including the Pawtucket Library. These plaques symbolize the pride that owners have for the historical significance of their homes.

Paul’s pride and passion for the city of Pawtucket are clearly evident in the time and effort he has given to improving the city, and there can be no doubt that he is committed to its future progress and success. We can’t imagine a more qualified or more deserving candidate for the Pawtucket Hall of Fame and it would give us great pleasure to see Paul’s contributions recognized.”

In honor of the City of Pawtucket’s 125th Anniversary (in 2011), the Pawtucket Foundation produced Pawtucket 125 Years: Past Present & Future. A committee of volunteers from the Pawtucket Library, Pawtucket Times, Elizabeth Johnson Research Center, PawSox and BVTC helped compile historic photos and old film footage that chronicled Pawtucket’s historic story. Doug Hadden (City of Pawtucket) and Paul Mowrey (Pawtucket Preservation Society) wrote the narrative script. Thomas Mann and Aaron Hertzberg from The Pawtucket Foundation built graphics, edited the content and recorded the soundtrack featuring local talent, Vincent Ceglie, executive director of Blackstone Valley Community Action Program. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OIF99wv5Oo>

We are delighted to also recognize Joseph Asermely for being inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. Joe is a past board member and an ongoing supporter of the PSP’s work. His tireless efforts to lead the Quality Hill Historic District Association have made an immeasurable difference.

Congratulations Paul and Joe!



## Annual Appeal

We are grateful for all the encouraging words as we've made so many transitions and adjustments in the recent past. We have worked hard to stabilize the organization and still depend on your support to guarantee our future. We hope you will continue supporting us by participating in our programs, attending our events, expressing your moral support for our efforts, and of course by making a [financial donation](#). Donations can be made online, or by mailing your check to our address (PO Box 735, Pawtucket, RI, 02862). Your financial support makes it possible for us to spread awareness about why historic preservation is important. It also helps us plan public events that highlight the city's historical resources. We need more volunteers to better serve the community, so if you have an interest in history, preservation, or just want to help out, please let us know.

## Advocacy

Through various advocacy efforts, we hope to highlight properties that are in need of attention. We're keeping an eye on the following:

### **Pawtucket Ice Company, Inc. (1929), Waverly Place/258 Pine Street**

The Pawtucket Ice Company was founded in 1857 by Joseph E. Dispeau and Alfred Childs. It first operated from a location on North Main Street (now Roosevelt Avenue). Ice was cut from nearby ponds and reservoirs and stored in ice houses; large-scale refrigeration and artificial ice manufacturing did not yet exist. Horse-drawn wagons delivered ice throughout Pawtucket and Central Falls. In 1928, the Pawtucket Ice Company purchased a lot on Waverly Place and hired the Pawtucket architecture firm of Monahan & Meikle to design a complex of three connected buildings situated around a central courtyard.



The ice plant created 75 tons of ice each day and could store up to 500 tons. There was also a barn and a garage; at that time, horse-drawn wagons were still used to deliver ice. Between 1929 and 1931, the Pawtucket Ice Company purchased eleven Ford Model A trucks. The horses were used on flat streets while the trucks serviced the area's more hilly neighborhoods. By 1933, horses were no longer used and the barn was converted to a garage. In 1953, the Pawtucket Ice Company closed and sold its buildings to the adjacent business, Industrial Specialties Company. In 1960, the company was

liquidated. Though severely deteriorated, the complex still stands at the end of Waverly Place. Because of the significant role the Pawtucket Ice Company had in the city's history, and because the building complex was designed by Monahan & Meikle, this property is likely eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The adjacent mill on Pine Street was severely burned in a fire on October 5. We applaud the excellent response and efforts of the Pawtucket Fire Department to keep the fire contained to the mill building. The ice company complex is adjacent to the site of the new Pawtucket Central Falls train station. After the burned buildings are removed and as new



construction begins, we're hoping the ice company will become more visible and the owners will be urged to protect and preserve the site.

You can read more on our website at [Properties to Watch](#). If you would like us to add others, please let us know.

## Marker Program

The goals and objectives of the Marker Program are:

- To identify and recognize historically and architecturally significant structures
- To raise public awareness of, and appreciation for, said structures
- To encourage historically sensitive changes to structures in the City of Pawtucket

Please see our [website](#) to review marker criteria and to download the application form.

Any building or structure located in Pawtucket that contributes to the historic character of the city will be considered. It will be evaluated for historical relevance, date of construction, architectural significance and integrity, landscaping, and contribution to the neighborhood.

We have approved historic marker plaques for:

### Daniel H. Horton House, c. 1896

93 Clyde Street



### Joseph Spaulding House

We invited the Rhode Island Historical Society to visit the Spaulding House and identify items they wanted for their collections. They chose many of Betty Johnson's Gorham silver items and are planning to display them at an upcoming Gorham exhibition at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, beginning next May. A few other items were given to the Pawtucket Library to supplement the Pawtucket History Research Center materials. We donated many household items to local organizations. Betty's furniture and decorative arts collections are for sale by public auction at Bruneau and Company Auctioneers in Cranston.

We have worked with Preserve Rhode Island to put an easement in place to protect the historical integrity of the house and property. We are grateful for PRI's guidance through the process. The house is listed with The Morrison Group at Residential Properties. We met the Morrisons last year during the sale of a marker house. They have much experience selling historic homes in this area, and we are very happy they agreed to work with us.

The profit from the sale of the house and contents will ultimately be divided equally between us and the Pawtucket Library. This will ensure the continuing care of Betty Johnson's extensive research records.

The James E. Childs House at 19 Stuart Street, is for sale. An open house is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 28 from 5:00PM - 6:30PM.** Please stop in and see the house!



Childs was the manager of the Pawtucket branch of the Boston & Providence Clothing Company. His Queen Anne-style house was designed c. 1888 by Albert Hadfield Humes, who designed many private residences and several schools in Pawtucket and Central Falls.