

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY TO ANNOUNCE
2008 MOST ENDANGERED PROPERTIES LIST
AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Providence, RI: On Thursday, May 22 at 4:00 p.m., the Providence Preservation Society (PPS) will hold a press conference to announce its highly anticipated 2008 Most Endangered Properties List. The event will take place on the steps of Nathan Bishop Middle School, 101 Sessions Street, at the corner of Elmgrove Avenue, in the Blackstone neighborhood of Providence.

PPS is honored that Mayor Cicilline and Councilman Cliff Wood will be present at this important announcement. Mayor Cicilline will make remarks about the results of the Mayor's Working Group on Historic Preservation, an initiative he launched in response to the tragic loss of two buildings on the 2007 Most Endangered Properties List, the former Police and Fire Headquarters on Fountain Street and the Providence Fruit and Produce Warehouse on Harris Avenue.

Nathan Bishop Middle School, a soon-to-be-renovated historic building, demonstrates the successful collaboration between the City of Providence and Providence Preservation Society resulting from the school's inclusion on the 2007 Most Endangered List. Prior to its closing in 2006, Nathan Bishop suffered from deterioration and deferred maintenance and was threatened by demolition and replacement with a new school. However, after comparing renovation and new construction options, on June 25, 2007, the Providence School Board approved the full-scale renovation of the school. When it opens for the 2009-2010 school year, Nathan Bishop will be a first-class, 21st century learning environment housed in the shell of the majestic 1929 Georgian Revival building.

The Most Endangered Properties List is one of PPS's most respected programs. This year's list includes a variety of city-owned structures, turn-of-the-century commercial buildings, and properties owned by private institutions and citizens. The listings represent diverse architectural typologies and styles and date from as early as 1767. All of the properties are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Since 1994, with the help of concerned citizens, PPS has compiled a list of the Most Endangered Properties in Providence. Most buildings on the List represent an important aspect of local community life and character. The sites reflect threats such as deterioration, neglect, insufficient funds, insensitive public policy and inappropriate development— problems that frequently threaten historic structures throughout Providence. The List's purpose is to generate interest in and support for the preservation of these significant structures; to educate the public about the benefits of historic preservation and the unique architectural resources in our city; and to work toward a solution with property owners, developers and other interested parties to bring about positive change in each property, and ultimately, in the historic fabric of our city.

The Providence Preservation Society is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the city of Providence through historic preservation and enhancement of the built environment.

**In case of inclement weather on the day of the event, please contact PPS for location information.*

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