



The Barry Hittner Research Fellowship at the Rhode Island Historical Society 2024–25 Fellowship Cycle

The Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) is excited to offer the Barry Hittner Research Fellowship in Rhode Island History to support scholarly research in our library and museum collections. The RIHS owns and manages vast historical collections in the Mary Elizabeth Robinson Research Center (RRC), which houses over 100,000 volumes, 9 million feet of film, and 1,200 manuscript collections comprising 10 million pages of letters, ledgers, and archival materials. Two blocks away, the John Brown House Museum holds over 25,000 artifacts which constitute the museum collections (furniture, portraits, textiles, porcelain, etc.).

The RIHS welcomes applications from researchers at all levels of their professional careers, including—but not limited to—graduate students, public historians, academic scholars, and independent researchers (please note: individuals enrolled in a terminal degree program are required to submit a letter of recommendation with their application. Letters should be confidentially submitted by an advisor or someone familiar with your project; see the “Application Instructions” section below for additional details). Please note that the Hittner Fellowship is only available to United States residents or those with a F-1 visa AND a U.S. taxpayer identification number. The RIHS cannot sponsor visas for researchers. Priority will be given to applicants who demonstrate a convincing case for the use of *specific* collections or material artifacts in the RIHS collections. Click [here](#) to access the RIHS’s online catalog, and [here](#) for the master list of finding aids to the manuscript collections. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact the Robinson Research Center by email at reference@rihs.org to inquire about specific collections related to their research.

Awarded annually, the Hittner Fellowship provides a stipend of \$2,500 to support 2–4 weeks of in-person archival research in our collections. The anticipated length of in-person research should be noted in fellowship applications. Hittner Fellows will be asked to present their work and findings at an informal “brown bag” style luncheon attended by RIHS staff, volunteers, members, and the general public. The format of this talk can be in-person or virtual depending on scheduling and current public health guidelines.

Application Instructions:

Applications are due by **December 15, 2025**. The award will be announced *no later than January 31, 2025*. The residency period will be arranged with the award recipient.



To apply for the Hittner Research Fellowship, please submit the following materials in one-single PDF document via email to fellowships@rihs.org:

- **Cover letter (1 page):** Summarize the scope of your project and its significance to an understanding of Rhode Island’s history. Please address cover letters to the “Barry Hittner Research Fellowship Selection Committee.” Be sure to include your email address, mailing address, and phone number on your cover letter.
- **Curriculum vitae or resume (3 pages maximum)**
- **Project proposal (2 pages):** Describe your proposed research project and how the Rhode Island Historical Society’s collections are central to your work. The most successful project proposals make direct connections to materials in the RIHS collections and provide a clear and reasonable timeline needed to complete the fellowship.
- **Include a brief (1 page) list** of items or collections at the RIHS that you intend to consult if awarded a fellowship.

Fellowship Application Timeline:

- Application opens – **Friday, August 23, 2024**
- Applications due no later than – **Sunday, December 15, 2024**
- Notifications will be sent via email no later than – **Friday, January 31, 2025**