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**Lippitt House Museum Expands Access with New American Sign Language Tour**

(Providence, RI) This summer, Lippitt House Museum is adding an American Sign Language (ASL) tour to its roster of tour offerings for visitors. Created to make the museum accessible to ASL speakers , the tour also draws inspiration from Jeanie Lippitt who became deaf following scarlet fever at age four. Jeanie and her mother Mary Ann Balch Lippitt were instrumental in establishing the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Developed as a series of videos presented by native ASL speakers, the new tour was designed to offer the same quality and complexity as the museum’s traditional docent-led tours. Each room features several videos which highlight different aspects of the room, along with stories about the family and servants who lived and worked in the house. Tours are accessed on visitors’ cell phones with the option to select videos for each room, based on individual’s interests.

The creation of the ASL tour was led by Anne Prusky, a student at Brown University who graduated this spring with a major in Socio-Cultural Linguistics, a major that she designed to incorporate her love of several languages, including ASL. Timothy Riker, a Lecturer in American Sign Language at Brown University, was also instrumental in advising the project. The project was funded by a grant from the Paul V. Sherlock Center for Disabilities at Rhode Island College. The goal for the project is to increase accessibility and engage the deaf and hard of hearing community with the museum, its Victorian era history and the stories of its residents.

A National Historic Landmark, Lippitt House Museum was built for Rhode Island Governor Henry Lippitt in 1865. It is located at 199 Hope Street (at the corner of Hope & Angell) on Providence’s East Side. The museum is open every Friday, May to October, 12:00-4:00 pm. It is also open on the third Saturday of each month, 12:00-4:00 pm. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for students, and Free for children 12 or younger and Active Military Personnel. For more information, visit LippittHouse.org or call (401) 453-0688.

**About Lippitt House Museum**

Preserve Rhode Island’s 1865 Lippitt House Museum offers guided tours, special exhibitions, lectures, art installations, concerts, and family programs. A National Historic Landmark, Lippitt House has one of the best preserved Victorian interiors in America, allowing visitors to step into Providence’s Golden Age. Following the Lippitt family's example of public service, the Museum's cultural programming promotes civic engagement, the arts, and history of Providence. [**LippittHouse.org**](http://www.lippitthouse.org)

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