Rhode IslandView improves the usefulness of publicly available historical remote sensing data. Collaborating with the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS) and the Rhode Island Division of Statewide Planning, Rhode IslandView is exploring approaches for improving the appearance of historical aerial photos from 1939 by manipulating them with specialized remote sensing data processing software.

This ongoing pilot study is focusing on a region in the vicinity of Quonset Point, North Kingstown, an area that has undergone rapid land use changes since these photos were taken in 1939. RIView is investigating how to efficiently georeference and mosaic these photos so they may be more easily used by Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for a wide range of applications, such as municipal planning and climate change studies.

This research initiative ties into USGS National Land Imaging Program Objective 5: Support the U.S. Department of the Interior Secretarial Priorities.
Rhode IslandView fosters local applications of drone-based technologies. Drones have an unmatched capability to quickly and inexpensively capture detailed aerial photographs of small areas. Upon joining AmericaView in 2014, RIView has focused on facilitating online access to remote sensing data and promoting the use of small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUAS). The consortium’s approach to this is largely through conducting demonstrations, providing undergraduate student training opportunities, and building data acquisition partnerships.

Remote sensing datasets of Rhode Island historically have been difficult to view by the general public. The computer file formats, complex software, and robust computer hardware used to efficiently access these types of data are not readily accessible by most. Rhode IslandView has created web-based map services in partnership with the Rhode Island Geographic Information System consortium (www.rigis.org). These services are used behind-the-scenes by online map application developers to directly connect our communities with remote sensing imagery and detailed lidar-based elevation models.

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