

The Bradway or Hall House  
Broadway  
Salem City, Salem County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Bradway or Hall House  
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Salem City, Salem County, New Jersey

Owner: Gayner Glass Company

Date of Erection: 1691

Architect:

Builder: Edward Bradway or William Hall

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel

Historical Data:

There is some dispute as to who is the actual builder of this house. There are those who claim that it was built by Edward Bradway, among these are Shourds and Sickler. Local tradition at least has persisted in calling the house "The Bradway House".

Friends records have the following to say of Bradway:

"Edward Bradway livin in the parrish of paull Shedwell in London transported himself with his wife Mary and two daughters Mary and Susannah and their Servants William groom, Francis Buckly and John Allen in the third month 1677, into America who all arrived in the province of West new Jersey in the 7th month (September) following and to the place called new Salem ware they did Inhabit."

The house stands on part of sixteen acres originally laid out to John Smith and the title has been traced to William Hall. Doctor Sharpe maintained that it was built by Hall and that the Bradways did not acquire it until 1791. Hall is supposed to have established the place as his inn in 1692. In his will, which is dated April 10, 1713, he devised to his son William the "capitall house" where the testator dwelt with all the lots bought of William Kelly.

No matter who was the builder, the house has an interesting history. Sickler says, "This house claims the proud possession of markings showing its age, the latest of all those so marked in the county and one of the few in the whole nation which has preserved so early a date of erection." The royal governors of New Jersey were visitors at this house. We have record of a letter from Lord Cornbury, dated June 7, 1707, to the Lord of Trade. "I proceeded on my Voyage as farr as six Miles below Salem, which is about eighty Miles below Burlington and there meeting with contrary winds, I put into Salem, where I stayed severall days Wind bound, it seems during the time I was at Salem, Collonell Evans was beginning to erect a Fort at Newcastle, and had got an Act of Assembly passed in the local Countys for the laying a duty of half a pound of powder a Tonn, upon all Vessells that

should sail by Newcastle, and the intent of that Fort was to make them pay it." Cornbury held a conference in this house with Colonel Evans and told the latter that if he made any of our sloops pay, he would soon get some "Guns downe to Elsinburgh Point (which is a place where the Swedes had formerly a fort) and is below Newcastle, would make every Vessel that went up the River or downe pay three times as much as he did." The provincial Congress of West Jersey also used this house as a meeting place.

The old house is known by three names:- Governor's House, which is easily explained by the presence of royal governors, Light House, and the old yellow. It was called Light House because a lantern was formerly suspended from the roof to guide late mariners at night up Salem Creek. It was called old yellow because yellow paint adorned the house for many years.

Sickler says that Bradway built the house and that it remained in the hands of the Bradway family nearly two centuries. It was in a dilapidated condition when it was gutted by fire. Later on it was purchased by the Gayner Glass Company, who rebuilt it and used it as their office building.

The house stands near the foot of Broadway formerly called Wharf Street, in Salem, near the place where Major John Penwick landed in October, 1675.

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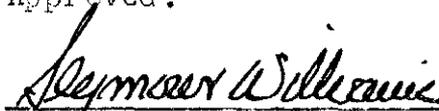
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Supervising Historian

Approved:



SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

70 7/28/57

A D D E N D U M

We mentioned in our first sketch of this house that there was a difference of opinion as to the builder and named either Edward Bradway or William Hall. Since that time we have discovered a paper that was read before the Salem County Historical Society in 1907 which would seem to definitely prove that Hall was the builder. Edison Jones in this paper points out that Shourds was in error to say that "as early as 1676" the street upon which this house stands was called Wharf Street and then to add that the street was later in 1693, when Salem was incorporated as a borough, named Bradway Street in honor of Edward Bradway and that Broadway was a corruption. Jones finds that in the early records this thoroughfare was spoken of as the "Town Landing"; this was as late as 1688. He also points out that none of the abstracts of deeds in the New Jersey Archives up to the year 1704 make any mention of Wharf Street.

In September 1676 six town lots were surveyed on the north side of what is now Broadway between it and Fenwick Creek. The nearest one to the dock contained sixteen acres and was made out to John Smith. This is proved by reference to Fenwick's survey, to Town Grants, and to the Salem Survey. John Smith and his wife Martha sold sixteen acres, plus another six acre piece that Smith had acquired from Fenwick in 1679, to Sarah Cannon in 1693. She left all her property to her daughter Sarah Pile who sold on April 2, 1691 to William Hall and his wife Elizabeth.

The house in question stands on the sixteen acres which became the property of William Hall, and there is every reason to believe that the house which bears the date 1691 on its east gable was built by William Hall and that he had established it as an inn by 1692. We know that by August 17, 1692 William Hall was an inn holder of Salem. In his will which we

mentioned in our original sketch he left the house where he dwelt to his son. It is called the "Capitall House" by which name the house has been known locally.

The records do not show that Edward Bradway ever owned a house on the north side of Broadway between the wharf and Market Street. Bradway bought one thousand acres from Fenwick on May 6, 1675 and he bought another thousand on June 23 from John Edridge. The meeting records show that Bradway arrived in 1677. His first nine hundred and eighty-four acres were surveyed for him on Alloway's Creek and his second nine hundred and eighty-four acres were surveyed on Stow Creek. Every purchaser of one thousand acres had a right to a town lot of sixteen acres in Salem, therefore, Bradway had the right to two such lots. Records do not show when these lots were surveyed; neither of them were on Broadway as is shown in the records of the conveyances. The sixteen acre lot he received from the Fenwick purchase he sold on December 23, 1680 to Richard Wilkinson, and it is described as being bounded on three sides by a marsh and the fourth side is not said to be a highway. The other sixteen acre piece he conveyed to his daughter Mary Cooper on February 1, 1692-93. This piece had a house on it and was on a street that ran northwesterly. We find that there was a street named for Edward Bradway. It appears in the record as such, but it did not run east and west as does Broadway. A search of other property held on this same Bradway Street shows that it ran northwesterly and southwesterly. This street retained its name as late as December 10, 1737. After that date a public road forty-five feet wide was laid out. In the description this road is stated as running into the street called Bradway. As near as can be ascertained this Bradway Street was the northerly portion of the present Johnson Street.

Mr. Jones has carefully documented his research by constant reference to the various grants

and surveys, and it certainly appears that the builder of the house in question was William Hall and not Edward Bradway.

Bibliography:

Jones, Edison Salesbury Early Salem County Salem, Sunbeam Publishing Company, 1907 (Paper read before the Salem Historical Society, December 10, 1907)

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