

Isaac P. White House
66 Ayrault Street
Newport
Newport County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-321

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-321

ISAAC P. WHITE HOUSE

Location: 66 Ayrault Street, Newport, Newport County,
Rhode Island.

Present Owner: Urey W. Patrick, Jr.

Present Occupant: Colonel and Mrs. T. E. Metzger.

Present Use: Single family dwelling.

Significance: This is a very well-preserved example of a kind of house commonly used in its period in this section of Newport. Built between 1871 and 1874, it is a two-and-a-half-story frame structure with a half-timber designs on the walls, and deep bracketed eaves typical of the "Stick Style," or "Chalet Style" of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1871-1874.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to Land Evidence Books in the Office of the City Clerk Newport, Rhode Island.

1871 L.E.B. 42, p.325 Deed of October 17, 1871
From Nathan Barker to Isaac P. White
plot of land for \$3,200
Westerly by Ayrault Street 89.2/10 ft., Northerly by land
of Daniel T. Swineburne 139.4/10 ft., Easterly by land of
Joseph F. Bailey, and Alfred Smith, 90 ft., and Southerly
by land of Caroline A. Wyeth 152 ft., containing 12,570
ft. It being the same parcel of land conveyed to the
grantor by Daniel T. Swineburne June 14, 1864 vol. 38
p.19 & 20 LEB."

- 1875 L.E.B. 46, p.325
Deed of April 5, 1875
From: Isaac P. White
To: Helena Forsythe, for \$20,000
- 1895 L.E.B. 70, p.2
Deed of October 1, 1895
From: Russell Forsythe and Helena Forsythe, wife
To: Robert Colgate
- 1900 L.E.B. 75, p.143
Deed of September 25, 1900
From: [Robert Colgate having defaulted on a mortgage,
Savings Bank of Newport,
To: Amory Austin, purchases for \$8,500
- 1938 L.E.B. 141, p.443
Deed of September 3, 1938
From: Catherine Austin
To: Elbridge Gerry Greene and wife Ruth Thayer Greene
- 1951 L.E.B. 175, p.178
Deed of March 14, 1951
From: Elbridge G. Greene, heirs of
To: Michael H. Murphy
- 1951 L.E.B. 175, p.226
Deed of May 1, 1951
From: Michael H. Murphy
To: Edward L. Robertson and wife
- 1961 L.E.B. 203, p.440-442
Deed of April 28, 1961
From: Edward L. Robertson and Martha B. Robertson
To: Edward L. Robertson, Jr.
- 1962 L.E.B. 206, p.391
Deed of June 19, 1962
From: Edward L. Robertson
To: Urey W. Patrick, Jr.

4. Alterations and additions: None recorded.

B. Historical Context: The Reverend Isaac P. White was Rector of Trinity Church. He probably began building this house soon after buying the property in 1871. The 1871-72 Newport Directory showed him living on Touro Street, and the next directory showed him at this address. White died shortly after moving in, and his widow moved to 23 Second Street.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. This house is a typical example of the "Stick Style" or "Chalet Style" of the 1870s.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent, very few alterations.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 40' (three-bay front) by 30' main block plus 22' by 28' rear wing, two-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone with some brick.
3. Walls: Horizontal flush boarding, 4" on front, 5" on sides, overlaid with half-timber pattern of 1½" by 6" boards with ½" chamfers.
4. Structural system: Wooden frame.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: One-story porch across whole front, with roof supported by chamfered posts and triangular spandrel brackets.
6. Chimneys: Three brick chimneys.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two-leaf main entrance door, single tall panel in each. Rectangular transom, simple board trim.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung two-over-two-light sash except on porch, which has two-over-four-light floor-length windows. Louvered shutters are stored on the third floor.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Low gable roof with subsidiary front gable.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Deep bracketed eaves with jib-sawn bracket spandrels and acorn drops on brackets.

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C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:
 - a. First floor: (House faces west) Central hall plan parlor at NW, library off parlor at NE, sitting room at SW, dining room S center, kitchen at SE in rear ell.
 - b. Second floor: Similar to first-floor plan with addition of bathrooms.
 - c. Third floor: Three small bedrooms under the gables open off central hall with skylight.

2. Stairways: U-shaped open well stairway in central has open string with sawn brackets, massive faceted newel post, broad molded railing, and two turned balusters per step. Back stairs wind to second and third floors.
 3. Flooring: First-floor hall has alternating light and dark 3" boards. Other floors have 5½" boards.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls and ceilings, deep coved cornices. Ceiling rosettes in parlor and hall
 5. Doorways and doors: Four-panel doors. Mitered architraves are heavily molded.
 6. Decorative features: Ponderous marble mantelpiece in sitting room.
 7. Heating: Kitchen retains 1902 Beebe coal range.
- D. Site: House faces west on a small level lot. Landscaping consists of a lawn and informal planting of trees and shrubs.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deeds in Newport City Hall.

Newport directories in Newport Historical Society.

B. Likely sources not yet investigated:

Histories of Trinity Church.

Newport Newspapers.

Prepared by: Osmund Overby
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
August 1969

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Historic American Buildings Survey 1969 Newport, Rhode Island, Project was sponsored by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. Antionette F. Downing, Chairman; Operation Clapboard and the Preservation Society of Newport County, and was carried out by HABS under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS, and supervised by Osmund Overby (University of Missouri), Project Supervisor. The photographs were taken by HABS Photographer Jack E. Boucher.