

Aros Allen House
62 Benefit Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-148

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
51-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

AMOS ALLEN HOUSE

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Address: 62 Benefit Street, Providence, Providence
County, Rhode Island.

Plat 10, lot 132, not numbered in 1798; 42
Benefit Street in 1824; 56 Benefit Street
in 1847; 62 Benefit Street in 1866.

Present Owner: The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island,
101 Benefit Street, Providence 3, Rhode
Island.

Present Occupant: Leased to various tenants

Present Use: Old people's home.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a medium sized, well-preserved house from
the late eighteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1773 Joseph Whipple sells for 30 £ lawful money to
Amos Allen, housewright, "a certain lot of land front-
ing E/ly on Benefit Street; Beginning at the NE corner
of Star and Benefit Street 120' until it comes in range
with the N line of the Church Burying Ground, thence W/ly
in the range aforesaid 50', thence N/ly holding width
of 50' to Star Lane, thence 50' to first mentioned corner.
Deed Book 20, page 132, in Providence City Hall.

1798 Amos Allen, owner house and store. Cornelius
Bowler, occupant. E on Benefit; N on Star Lane; House
33' x 26' - 2 stories front, 3 stories rear, wood.
Taxed \$1,200. Henry R. Chace, Owners and Occupants of
the Lots, Houses and Shops in the Town of Providence,
Rhode Island in 1798 Located on Maps of the Highways
of that Date (Providence, 1914).

1812 Division of Amos Allen Estate. "We assign to
Caleb Fuller and Hannah Fuller in right of said
Hannah and Mary Allen a lot of land with dwelling house,
being #4 and #5. Valued at \$2400." Deed Book 36, page
27, in Providence City Hall.

- 1832 Caleb Fuller and wife Hannah for \$1500 sell to Clarissa L. Fuller, undivided 1/2 part of the house and lot at the corner of Star and Benefit Street, said property given Hannah in the division of the estate of her father, Amos Allen. Deed Book 60, page 471, in Providence City Hall.
- 1844 James Mumford, collector of taxes, leased property til 1866. Deed Book 152, page 342, in Providence City Hall.
- 1857 Hannah Fuller for \$1500 to daughter, Cynthia Springer, one undivided 1/2 part of Dwelling House and lot of land--being the same estate which descended to me from my father, Amos Allen--reserving to myself the use of premises during my life time. Deed Book 149, page 349, in Providence City Hall.
- 1863 Clarissa L. Fuller, spinster, to my sister Cynthia Springer--"one undivided 1/2 part of Dwelling House wherever the same stands." Said estate is situated and is #56 Benefit Street (now #62). The Dwelling House is 33' x 28' and is 2 stories high in front and 3 in rear. Deed Book 165, page 341, in Providence City Hall.
- 1887 Mary C. Lothrop to Mary A. Lothrop (my daughter) the same premises conveyed to me by my mother, Cynthia Springer, and came to me as only child and heir of my mother, Cynthia. Life estate reserved. Deed Book 342, page 28, in Providence City Hall.
- 1899 M. Alinda Lothrop. Deed Book 15, page 142, in Providence City Hall.
- 1907 Jamelia Z. Noumeir.
- 1927 Jamelia F. Zainey.
- 1945 Rhode Island Episcopal Convention.
- 1959 The Diocese of Rhode Island; leased to tenants.

2. Date of erection: Between 1773 and 1798.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
August, 1961.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Typical medium-sized frame building with a well-preserved exterior.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 33' (4 bays) x 28', two stories high plus attic, and cellar at ground level in the rear. Faces east.
2. Foundations: Squared stone
3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame, plank walls, clapboards, beaded corner boards.
4. Stoops: One granite step at front, small wood stoop at the north side.
5. Chimney: Brick center chimney.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doors: Door does not appear original; frontispiece with fluted pilasters and pediment with modillion cornice.
 - b. Windows: Two windows south of entrance, one window north of entrance; double hung windows have six over one light double hung sash, probably originally had twelve over 12 light sash as on similar neighboring house. Plain window frames with molded heads.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof; rolled roofing.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed eaves, molded cornice; molded heads of second floor windows continuous with the bed mold.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Center-chimney type, five-room plan, with secondary entrance on north side.

2. Stairway: U-shaped, open well, closed string stair in front entrance hall; molded face stringer; heavy railing with nearly square handrail; turned newels end baluster. Winding back stairway by north side door.
3. Flooring: Wide boards.
4. Wall end ceiling finish: Plester with molded wood cornice.
5. Doorways and doors: Six- and eight-panel, raised-panel doors in plain frames with thin molded trim.
6. Trim: Simple molded wood trim; beaded edges on exposed frame.
7. Hardware: Not original.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Modern central heating with radiators. Original fireplaces closed off, mantels in place. Parlor mantels have colonnettes end deeply projecting, stepped mantel shelves; plainer mantel in kitchen.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces east on the sidewalks on a corner lot (southwest corner of Benefit and Ster Streets) with a small rear yard.
2. Enclosures: Wire fence on the side toward the rear of the property.
3. Walks: Brick at the front, asphalt on the side.
4. Landscaping: Untended back yard.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
August 1961