

10 1/2 Bowen House
371 North 111 Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-157

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
67-

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

TULLY BOWEN HOUSE

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
67-

Address: 389 Benefit Street, Providence, Providence
County, Rhode Island

Flat 16, Lot 295.

Present Owner: Lee Kaplan (Five Arnold Corporation), Seaview
Avenue, Edgewood, Rhode Island

Present Occupant: Various renters

Present Use: Apartment house

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a large stone mansion, built in 1853,
designed by Thomas Tefft.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

In 1823 Lydia Clarke, widow of John Innes Clarke, sold this property to William Almy, who was a son-in-law of Moses Brown. This was part of the transaction of \$16,000 which included the sale of the Mansion House, and was referred to as the South Garden Lot.--Deed Book 47, page 81, in Providence City Hall.

1823 Lydia Clarke to William Almy---"also a lot called the South Garden bounded; N/ly by John Street; E/ly by Oliver Kane and Christopher Arnold; S on land of said Arnold and Arnold Street; W/ly on Benefit Street--Deed Book 47, page 81, in Providence City Hall.

1851 Samuel Tobey, physician and surgeon, sells for the heirs of Anna Almy Jenkins this property to Tully Bowen for \$8,000. (Anna Almy Jenkins was the daughter of and devisee of William and Sarah Brown Almy)see--Deed Book 123, page 193, in Providence City Hall. Bounded W/ly by Benefit Street 105 1/2'; S by Arnold Street 97'; E by Amherst Everett 80 1/2'; also E by Mary Pierce 73 3/4'; N by John Street--Deed Book 143, page 10, in Providence City Hall.

1854 Tully Bowen lived here until 1865--Providence Directory.

- 1891 Property was sold at auction to Marie L. B. Lippitt, wife of Henry F.--Deed Book 366, page 359, in Providence City Hall.
- 1911 Henry F. Lippitt is willed this property for life.
- 1934 Property is taxed to Henry and John B. Lippitt, Mary L. Sinnickson, and Frances L. Gage.--Deed Book 337, page 159, in Providence City Hall.
- 1941 Dora R. and Marion A. Clifford buy property.--Deed Book 337, page 160, in Providence City Hall.
- 1958 Taxed to--Five Arnold Corporation.
2. Date of Erection: 1853
3. Architect: Thomas Tefft
4. Notes on alterations and additions: The building was made over into twelve apartments plus three apartments in the original carriage house in 1941.
5. Important old views: An original elevation drawing is reproduced in the Bulletin, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Volume XXVIII, Number 2 (November 1940).
6. Sources of information: Anita F. Glass, Early Victorian Domestic Architecture on College Hill (unpublished Master's Thesis, Department of Art, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 1960), pp 47-49, figs. 21, 22. Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Jr. Rhode Island Architecture (Providence: Rhode Island Museum Press, 1939), p. 50, plate 56. Bulletin, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Volume XXVIII, Number 2 (November 1940).

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: This is a large three-story, stone mansion, built in 1853. It is one of the few large surviving works of the Providence architect Thomas Tefft, and it preserves interesting features both on the exterior and the interior and south apartment on 1st floor most unchanged. Many others changed greatly.

2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main front block of the house, facing west, is about 50' square, divided into three bays on the front and both sides, and three stories high. Rear wing, about 45' long, two stories high.
2. Foundations: Regular coursed ashlar--brownstone.
3. Wall construction: Regular ashlar brownstone with smooth narrow joints, rusticated quoins, and belt course between first and second floors. Rear wing of brick with stone quoins.
4. Chimneys: Single stone chimneys on north and south sides in the outside walls of the main block, and two on east, rear. A similar chimney on the west front appears to be made of wood.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Rear door on north side of wing: six panel wood door with top light in segmental-headed opening trimmed with unrelieved stone. Main entrance in center of west front; wood door with top third lighted, and with one elaborate panel below; side lights and semicircular fanlight; stone frontispiece with flat Doric pilasters and full entablature with modillion cornice.
 - b. Windows: Double hung windows, six light over six light sash on first and second stories, three over three light on third story. Projecting stone window frames with pediments on first floor; cornices on second floor except with a pediment over the entrance, and molded architraves with segmental heads on third. Simpler stone frames on brick wing with either flat or segmental heads.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Hip roofs covered with shingles.
 - b. Cornice: Heavy modillion cornice, apparently made of stone.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Central hall plan, two rooms deep
2. Stairways: Central hall layout original; tile floor, paneled wainscot, plaster walls, plaster cornice, inside doorway repeating sides to fanlights of main door. Open well, U-shaped, open string stair with decorated step ends; molded handrail, heavy turned balusters and newel. Basement stair paneled in dark, natural wood in small panels, similar panels used but extensively altered in some basement rooms.
3. Flooring: Modern hardwood
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster--walls divided in panels by plaster moldings, plaster ceiling cornice.
5. Doorways and doors: Tall six panel doors with segmental tops. Dog-eared doorways with double molded architraves.
6. Hardware: Original silver-plated hardware in front rooms--brass in other places--some in rear replaced; brass hardware on front door apparently not original.
7. Heating: Central with radiators; three original marble mantels with segmental or circular heads.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: House faces west on a southeast corner lot with lawn, shrubs, and trees around all sides.
2. Enclosures: Cut stone wall at west front and part of north sides, wood fence elsewhere.
3. Outbuildings: Carriage house at southeast of house extensively altered as three apartments.

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