

Samuel Richmond House
36 Bowen Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-203

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
103-

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

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-203

SAMUEL RICHMOND HOUSE

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103-

Address: 36 Bowen Street, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island.
Plat 10, Lot 543.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Robert Prescott Hall

Present Use: Dwelling

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a medium-sized, well-preserved frame house
from the early nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1784 Joseph Bowen inherits this property from his father Benjamin Bowen...Wills Book 6, pages 413, 415, 453, in Providence City Hall.
- 1817 Joseph Bowen, sells for \$3060 to Wheeler Martin "all my estate in the Town of Providence, consisting of 2 lots of land with all buildings thereon bounded: W by Main Street 40' to corner of Bowen Street S by Bowen Street 120' to my other lot 125' N by Ezra Hubbard...also my other lot 90' square bounded: S by Bowen Street; E by Col Dexter and Nathaniel Smith; N by Howland Alley; W by Hubbard and grantor...Deed Book 41, page 80 in Providence City Hall.
- 1817 Wheeler Martin sells the above property to Samuel N Richmond...Deed Book 41, page 81, in Providence City Hall.
- 1923 Henry Richmond, heir, sells to Margarethe L Dwight a certain lot of land beginning 119.68 E/ly from North Main Street and running N/ly 84' to Howland Street, bounded N/ly on Howland Street 42.42', bounded E/ly by Luber 83.35' to said Bowen Street. Bounded S/ly on Bowen Street 43.46. Contains 3863 square feet. Grantor is only child and sole heir of Samuel N Richmond jr and Harriet Taylor Richmond, deceased, intestate...Deed Book 688, page 143, in Providence City Hall.

Property was taxed to the following persons in the year designated:

1926	Margarethe L Dwight	1949	Margarethe L Dwight
1943	John P Brown	1954	Robert Prescott Hall

2. Date of erection: The date of the house is not indicated by the above available documents. According to local tradition the house was built for Samuel Richmond, and it would appear correct, stylistically, to date the house shortly after he acquired the property in 1817.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
February 1962.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a medium-sized, well-preserved, wood house from the early nineteenth century.
2. Condition of fabric: Good - does not appear to be much altered either on exterior or the interior.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular, two-and-a-half stories, five bays, about 45' x 30'.
2. Foundations: Brick
3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame, corner posts exposed on interior. Clapboard, 2" exposure at bottom, wider exposure toward top. Wood quoins at the corners.
4. Porches: One-story wood entrance porch, with paired, fluted tuscan columns at the front, roof with cornice similar to main cornice but at smaller scale, doorway with flat pilasters matching columns.
5. Chimneys: Two inside brick chimneys.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: Eight-panel main entrance door, side lights and semicircular top light over door only. Fluted, pilastered, doorway in part of porch.

- b. Windows: Six over six light double hung wood windows. Tri-partite window over entrance porch with cornice similar to porch and roof.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Hip roof with low monitor, shingled.
- b. Cornice: Molded cornice on small brackets, fret bed mold.
- c. Dormers: Two gabled dormers on south front.

C. Technical Description of Interior

- 1. Floor plans: Central hall plan with four rooms, central hall extends only half-way through the house, parlor at southwest, living room at northwest, dining room at southeast, remodeled kitchen at northeast. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement.
- 2. Stairways: Front and rear stairs. Front stairs in central hall, straight run with short turn at top, open well, open string, sawn scroll ornaments on step ends; molded hand rail, round newels, three slender rectangular balusters per step.
- 3. Flooring: Board floors.
- 4. Doors and doorways: Six-panel doors; doubled molded, crossetted architraves on doors and windows in front rooms, not crossetted in rear rooms.
- 5. Trim: Molded chair rails, with reeded fascia in dining room. Molded ceiling cornices, with patterns and scrolls in principal rooms.
- 6. Hardware: Cut glass knobs, apparently not original.
- 7. Lighting: Electric.
- 8. Heating: Central heat plus fireplaces. Three fireplaces on first floor with one-story, wood mantels with single or paired colonettes, deeply projecting molded mantel shelves, and paneled or carved architraves.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Small lot, slopes down from east to west, house faces south and is set slightly back from sidewalk, narrow yards on front and sides, garden in rear.
2. Enclosures: Open wood fence in front with square, ornamented end posts. Board fence around sides.
3. Walks: Brick walk to front porch.

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