

## 6 Cooke Street

*Robert S. Burrough House (ca 1816)*  
*John Holden Green, architect*  
*Owned and occupied by Dr. E. Jonathon Wolston and*  
*Nancy Laser Wolston*

The Burrough House represents Providence's domestic Federal architecture at its best and most characteristic: if a single house could evoke that era, this may well be it. Distinctive are the monitor-on-hip roof — closely identified with Providence houses built between 1805 and 1830, the use of wooden quoins at the corner, and the modified Palladian entrance with broad, elliptical fanlight.

The interior retains its center-hall, five-room plan, but the service areas at the rear of the house have been somewhat modified and the rear center fireplace on the first story has been filled in. Like many early-nineteenth century houses, the Burrough House has fine, delicate detail. The simple stairs have carved fan patterns on the ends of the risers, and the fan motif is repeated on the mantelpiece in the living room.

Robert Burrough moved here from 29 Thayer Street, probably designed and built by his next-door neighbor John Holden Greene, Providence's leading architect/builder of the early nineteenth century. The Burrough family owned the house well into the twentieth century. Architect Albert Harkness (see 5 Cooke Street) occupied the house for a number of years after his return to Providence in 1921, and his second wife, Hope K. H. Powel, bought the property in 1950.



PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

See... #2  
H. Mason's  
ALBUM

Records of

#6 COOKE STREET

Flat 17  
Lot 560

Built before 1817...By Robert S. Burrough

1817 Joseph S Cooke (descendent of Governor Nicholas Cooke) sells for \$110 to Robert S Burrough, a certain lot of land bounded: N by Hannah Cushing 100'; E by Hannah Hack 84'; S by grantor 100'; W by Cooke Street 84'...and is Lot #13 on the Flat of Lots of Joseph S Cooke, surveyed by Daniel Anthony in 1816 (see map)...and is the lot on which the said Burrough has erected a DWELLING HOUSE.  
...Deed Book 43.114

1824 Robert S Burrough lived here, this house being the ONLY building listed on Cooke Street in this first issue of the PROVIDENCE DIRECTORY.

1830 Robert S Burrough mortgages the above property to Lydia J Armington for \$2000..."it being one of the several purchased by me from Joseph S Cooke et al..."together with the Dwelling House and other buildings, and being the place of my present residence"...  
Deed Book 59.237

1831 Jabez J Potter, sheriff, sells the property to Lydia Armington (the highest bidder at public auction) this certain lot with buildings and improvements in the Young Orchard bounded W by Cooke Street...it being the same estate occupied by said Burrough  
....Deed Book 60.141

1842 Lydia Armington sells to Albert H Burrough a certain parcel of land in the S/E part of Providence called the Young Orchard... together with the Dwelling House and other buildings bounded: N by Young Orchard 313'; E by the street running past the house of Governor Fenner 138'; S 280'; and W 178' on Cooke Street running N beginning 100' from the S/E corner of Cooke and Power Streets.  
...Deed Book 84.196

1843 Albert H Burrough appoints George Burrough trustee of the above property..."it being the same estate conveyed to grantor by deed from Lydia Armington in 1842"...Deed Book 85.197

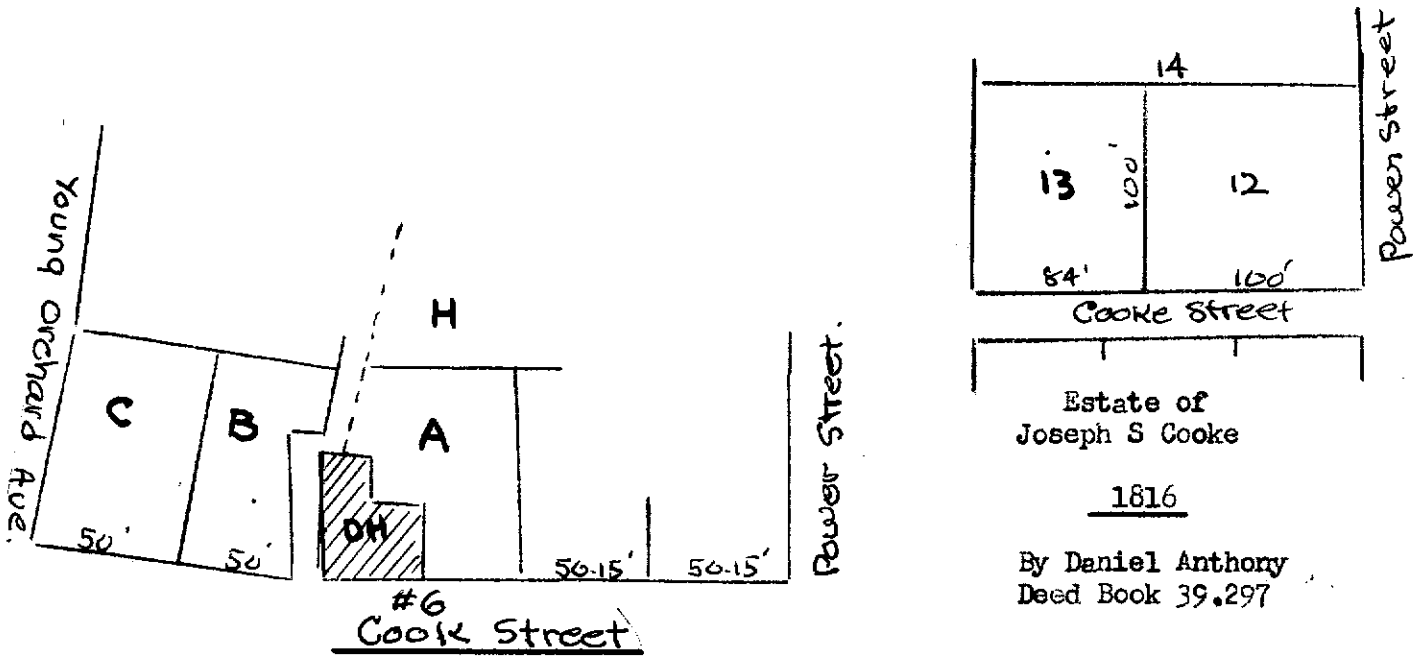
more...

#6 COOKE STREET....continued

1933 Richmond Sweet, by decree of the Superior Court, appointed trustee of the real estate under deed trust from Albert H Burrough to George Burrough, trustee, gives and grants to Anna F D Glezen all right and title to the following property: 4 lots of land with all buildings on the E/ly side of Cooke Street being Lots A, B, C, and H on the Estate of Esther Burrough, this property being Lot A with Dwelling House (see map)...Deed Book 761.495

1936 WILL: Anna F D Glezen:... "I give and devise all land, together with buildings and improvements thereon, situated on Cooke Street in Providence to the three sons of my cousin Martha B Swain viz: Leonard, Robert B, and Charles F Swain as tenants in common"...R I Hospital Trust Company, trustees...Wills 307.226

1950 R I Hospital Trust Company, executor u/w Leonard Swain, sell to Hope K H Powel of Middletown, Rhode Island, that certain lot of land with the buildings and improvements, on the E/ly side of Cooke Street bounded: 79.38' on the E side of Cooke Street beginning 100' S of the N/E corner of Cooke and Young Orchard Avenue; S by James E Keegan, Donald P Tucker, and R I Hospital Trust Company 193.98'; E by Elizabeth Gibbons 42'; N by Catherine T Evans, Joshua A Nickerson, Tony F Simon, and Lloyd Kent and William F Cruise .....Deed Book 965.467



Young Orchard Estate belonging to

Mrs Esther Burrough ...1858

By C G Paine..... Plat Card #185

Estate of Joseph S Cooke

1816

By Daniel Anthony  
Deed Book 39.297

Mary A Gowdey  
researcher  
June 1970

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-212

ROBERT S. BURROUGHS HOUSE

**Address:** 6 Cooke Street, Providence, Providence County,  
Rhode Island. Plat 17, lot 560.

**Present Owner:** Mrs. Albert Harkness, 5 Cooke Street, Providence,  
Rhode Island.

**Present Occupants:** Prof. and Mrs. Mylonas.

**Present Use:** Dwelling.

**Brief Statement of Significance:** This is a typical example of a medium-sized frame house in Providence built between 1814 and 1817.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1814 Mrs. tax descriptions in the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, for the 1814 Providence direct tax to the federal government: Joseph S Cooke;... "Also 1 unimproved lot of ground near the residence of James Fenner (part of what was former-called Young Orchard) and containing about 7 acres."

1817 Joseph S Cooke for \$110 sells to Robert S Burroughs a certain lot of land bounded: N by Hannah Cushing 100'; E by Hannah Mack 84'; S by greater 100'; W by Cooke Street 84'...and is lot #13 on plat of house lots as recorded in Book #39 page 297 and is the lot on which the said Burroughs has erected a DWELLING HOUSE. - Deed Book 43, page 144, in Providence City Hall.

1824 Robert S. Burroughs listed here and the ONLY one on Cooke St. - Providence Directory.

1830 Robert S Burroughs mortgages the above property to Lydia J Arvington for \$2000...being the several purchased by me from Joseph S Cooke et al...together with the Dwelling House and other buildings, and being place of my present residence - Deed Book 59, page 277, in Providence City Hall.

1831 Jabes J Potter, sheriff, levies on the property of Robert S Burroughs and sells at public auction for \$15 to Lydia Armington the highest bidder, a certain lot with buildings and improvements in the Young Orchard bounded: W by Cooke Street...it being the same estate occupied by said Burroughs. - Deed Book 60, page 141, in Providence City Hall.

1834 Property taxed to Charles Potter and West Providence Land Company.

1842 Lydia Armington sells to Albert H Burroughs a certain parcel of land in the SE part of Providence called the Young Orchard...together with the Dwelling House and other buildings. Bound: N by Young Orchard 313'; E by the street running past the house of Governor Fenner 138'; S 290'; and W 178' on Cooke Street running N beginning 100' from the SE corner of Cooke and Fenner Streets. - Deed Book 84, page 196, in Providence City Hall.

1843 Albert H Burroughs gives trusteeship to George Burroughs of the above property...it being the same estate conveyed to grantor by deed from Lydia Armington in 1842. - Deed Book 85, page 197, in Providence City Hall.

1865 Property taxed to William Granger.

1873 Property taxed to City of Providence.

Property taxed to the following in year shown:

1905 Antoinette E and Lillian F Draper and Anna F D Glesen.

1917 Antoinette E Draper and Anna F D Glesen

1918 Antoinette E Draper, Robert J Draper and Anna F D Glesen

1923 Antoinette E and Lillian E P Draper and Anna F D Glesen.

1926 Lillian E P Draper and Anna F D Glesen

1932 Robert J Draper and Anna F D Glesen

1933 Anna F D Glesen

1933 Richard Sweet, by decree of the Superior Court, appointed trustee of the real estate under deed trust from Albert H Burroughs to George Burrough trustee, gives and grants to Anna F D Glesen all right and title to the following property..4 lots of land with all buildings on the N/ly side of Cooke Street being lots A B C and H on Plat Card 185. (This property is Lot "A" with Dwelling House). - Deed Book 761, page 495, in Providence City Hall.

1936 Will: Anna F D Glesen. "Sixteenth: I give and devise all land, together with buildings and improvements thereon situated on Cooke Street in Providence to the three sons of my cousin Martha B Swain via: Leonard, Robert B and Charles F Swain as tenants in common"...Rhode Island Hospital Trust Company, trustees. - Wills Book 307, page 226, in Providence City Hall.

Property taxed to the following in year shown:

- 1937 Leonard, Charles F and Robert B Swain  
1944 Leonard Swain and Charles F Swain  
1947 Leonard Swain 3/4 and Robert Swain 1/4  
1950 Property taxed to Rhode Island Hospital Trust Co, tr u/w Leonard and Robert Swain  
1950 Property taxed to Hope K H Powell, Mrs. Albert Harkness.

2. Date of erection: Between 1814 and 1817

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing, Elvira Gowday and  
Mertie Saltenstall  
for the Providence Preservation Society  
April 1962.

**PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION**

**A. General Statement**

1. Architectural character: This is an example of a medium-sized frame house built between 1814 and 1817, with typical details for the period in Providence including the monitor roof.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

**B. Technical Description of Exterior**

1. Overall dimensions: Five bays, about 39' x 36', with rear addition about 20' x 36', two stories, facing west.
2. Foundations: Stone, two side cellar windows, foundation rises about one foot above ground.
3. Wall construction: Clapboard with wood corner quoins.
4. Porches, stoeps, etc.: Uncovered brick terrace looks over garden and faces south, cellar bulkhead on north side.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, on north and south ends of house.
6. Opening:
  - a. Doors and doorways: Central entrance with double flight of stairs (four steps) from street. Entrance has eight-panel wood door with side lights and elliptical top. Doorway framed with rusticated wood quoins and voussairs. Two rear entrances, on north and south sides of addition.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Six over six light double hung windows with lowered shutters. Single window frames with molded eaves. Monitor has three, three-light windows on each side.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: Asphalt shingles on a hipped roof with monitor.
  - b. Cornice: Round molded cornice with latticework balustrade on both roof and monitor.

**C. Technical Description of Interior**

1. Floor plans: Central hall plan with narrow entrance hall leading to a room used as hall beyond, parlor to south, dining room to northeast, kitchen in rear addition.
2. Stairways: Main stairs in entrance hall, open string, three slender balusters per step, landing with right angle turn, two steps from top, molded hand rail, open fan step end ornament, turned newel, shadow rail, hand rail continues on second floor around square open wall. Steep back stairs in rear of house.

3. **Flooring:** Wide wood floor boards.
4. **Wall and ceiling finish:** Plaster, painted, or papered.
5. **Doorways and doors:** Six-panel doors throughout house, sunk panels, molded mitred architraves. Window architraves have same type of molding continuing to floor, through the wainscoting. Dining room door and window moldings have square corner blocks.
6. **Trims:** Finished wainscoting in all rooms except living room, which has plaster dado with a wooden molded chair rail. The cornice and molded rail of wainscot in living room are decorated with rosettes and dentils. Interior shutters on windows. Wooden molded cornices in all rooms; dining room cornice projects onto ceiling surface 3/4 foot.
7. **Hardware:** Large iron locks and latches in all doors with brass doorknobs.
8. **Lighting:** Electric.
9. **Heating:** Central; fireplaces in parlor and dining room with one-story wood mantels, elliptical pattern on mantelshelves, large overhanging shelves, marble facings. Three upstairs mantels on bedroom fireplaces, simple one-story, unadorned except for hourglass-shaped colonettes supporting mantel shelf in north bedroom.

#### D. Site

1. **General setting:** House faces west on the sidewalk line, medium-sized level lot, residential area.
2. **Enclosures:** High picket fence surrounds lot, front fence opens to path on south side to garden.
3. **Outbuildings:** garden house.
4. **Walks:** Walks to back of lot on north and south side.
5. **Landscaping:** Informal garden in rear.

Prepared by Natalie Saltonstall

for the Providence Preservation Society  
and Oswald E. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
April 1962