

**NUMBER TEN JENCKES STREET
LEONARD BLODGET HOUSE
(Built Between 1843 and 1850)
OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Trevor C. Thom**

Number #10 Jenckes Street stands on land sold in 1826 by John Jenckes to Leonard Blodget, a mason, who was living here by 1832. In 1843, he took out fire insurance for a two-story wooden house 30 by 16 feet. This house was evidently soon replaced or much enlarged, however, because another policy dated 1850 describes the house as being 38 by 22 feet, two stories high, front and rear, and three stories on the west wall, dimensions that fit the present structure.

The Blodgets sold the house in 1902. It changed hands many times, and was in a very dilapidated state in 1959, when it was acquired by Burnside Corporation. It was restored in 1963 by Netop, under the direction of Donald Shepard.

An attractively simple Greek Revival building set with the long side to the street, the house is built on a center hall two-room plan. The detail is Greek Revival, with a typical wide Greek Revival cornice, paneled corner pilasters, windows finished with square block corners, and Greek Revival doorway.

On the interior, the stairway is almost Federal in character, with its plain rounded railing, simple square balusters, and newel post in the form of a Tuscan column. Other detail throughout the house is Greek Revival. Particularly interesting are some of the doors, composed of one long panel. They are a type found in the Greek Revival pattern books published in the 1830's and 1840's. The mantel in the east living room has been rebuilt, and the sliding doors that lead onto the terrace from this room are also part of the recent restoration.

Part of the living room furniture, including the Sheraton bow-front chest (probably of English origin) and the empire arm chair with the Victorian beaded chair seat worked for it, came from Mr. Thom's family home in Minburgh.

The Victorian porcelain parrot group is Chelsea or Derby, and the pottery in the bookcase is Spanish and dates from the end of the eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

The early Victorian furniture in the dining room came from Canada, and the medal cock is French Canadian. Originally the room extended the width of the house. In the present restoration, it was divided to allow for a compact, modern kitchen. At the rear of the house, there is a private terrace and the garden, like others on Benefit Square, leads into the Common Court yard.

1830 Leonard Blodgett is of 7 Bury St

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Records of Built 1830-1832

Plat 9
Lot 176

#10 JENCKES STREET....Wood

by Leonard Blodgett

1826 John Jenckes et al sell for \$325 to Leonard Blodgett, mason, a certain lot of land on the plat of lots of heirs of Joseph Jenckes being Lot #4 (DB 51.208) It being understood that no building is to be erected within 8' of said Jenckes Street as per agreement between Joanna Barnes and the above grantors (DB 51.207) The lot is bounded S by Jenckes Street 50'; W by Lot #3 118' 11"; S by Thomas L Halsey 50'; E by Lot #5 119' 11"....DB 53.42

1832 Leonard Blodgett listed as living here...Prov Dir 1st x

1843 POLICY RECORD: Leonard Blodgett..N side of Jenckes Street...wood... 30' x 16'..2 stories high front and rear. Addition 16' square... also addition 30' x 9' each 1 story high. Occupied as a DWELLING HOUSE, wood, and wash house...Vol 25..#10308

1850 POLICY RECORD: Leonard Blodgett..N side...wood..38' x 22'...2 stories high front and rear...3 stories at the W end. Addition 18' x 16' 2 stories high front and rear. Also additions 16' square, another 9' x 30' ~~additions~~ both 1 story high. Occupied as a Dwelling House

1850 Volume 43..#18446 Leonard Blodgett - 10 Jenckes. PP.

1900 Property taxed to Ann F Blodgett Estate and to the following persons in the year designated:

1902 Edmund Chapman

From Providence Directory

1903 Frederick B Mitchell

1892
Mrs Lucy Carder
William Potter

1903 William S Todd

1904 Morris Rubin

1871
Charles Carder, carpenter
Charles B Carder
Marcus Carder

1904 Samuel and Sarah Silverstein

1947 Frances Ward

1959 Burnside Inc

see file:
"Publicity"

1962 Beatrice O Chace

Mr. John Jenckes, Sr.; A Brief History of His Home,
Number Ten Jenckes Street, the Street Named for Him, and His
Life.

Internship at the Providence
Preservation Society
Professor Kellner
Final Paper
Lisa Johanson

Jenckes Street is located off Benefit Street to the west in Providence, Rhode Island. The street is conveniently located near downtown Providence, but far enough away from the hustle and bustle of city life.



map from 1993 House and Garden Guide
to the Homes. Page 26

In general, Jenckes Street is a modest street that also borders Hope Street to the East. Although Jenckes Street was named after Mr. John Jenckes, a wealthy merchant during the American Revolutionary war era, there were two previous owners. The first recorded owner was Mr. William Arnold, who, either sold or gave the property to Mr. Joseph Whipple. Mr. Whipple then sold 15 acres of land to Mr. Jenckes.

Mr. John Jenckes, Sr. was also involved in trying to open a bank, the first, in Providence 1.

When Mr. Jenckes died, however, he left his land divided among two of his children, Joseph and Joanna. Joseph divided his part

into house lots in 1826. Joanna eventually followed suit. In 1829 the street appeared for the first time in a Providence directory.

In 1826 "John Jenckes et al sell for \$325 to Leonard Blodget, mason, a certain lot of land on the plat of lots of heirs of Joseph Jenckes being lot #4 (DB 51.208). It being understood that no building is to be erected within 8' of said Jenckes Street as per agreement between Joanna Barnes and the above grantors (DB 51.207). The lot is bounded south by Jenckes Street 50'; west by lot #3 118' 11"; south by Thomas L. Halsey 50'; east by lot #5 119' 11"...DB53.42 2. This became 10 Jenckes Street.

Mr. Blodget, for whom the house is named, built this home between 1843 and 1850. He built this home with wood and according to a policy record dating back to 1843, the dimensions and the description were described as:

- 30' x 16'
- two stories high in front
- two stories high in rear
- addition 16' square
- addition 30' x 9' each one story high.

The house was to be used as a "dwelling house, wood, and wash house..."3.

However, in a policy record of 1850 the house was described as:

- 38 x 22
- two stories high in front
- two stories high in rear
- three stories at the west end
- addition 18' x 16'
- two stories high front
- two stories high rear
- additions 16' square
- 9' x 30' both one story high

Also listed as a dwelling house 4.

The differences in the policies seem to indicate that a renovation to enlarge the present structure or a total replacement of the home occurred.

why not the possibility that it was built larger than the original intent

The Blodget family sold the home in 1902. It then had a string of owners and by 1959 the home was in a complete disarray. Some of the owners included; Edmund Chapman (1902), Samuel and Sarah Silverstein (1904), and Francis Ward (1947) s.

In 1959 The Burnside Corporation bought the property which was in a state of dilapidation. The Burnside Corporation was

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a predominant factor in the salvation of this property and the surrounding areas. ~~This~~ ^{that} year Mrs. Malcolm Chace, the founder of the Burnside Corporation, died. The Providence Preservation Society honored her with dedicating ~~this~~ ^{that} years (1993) festival of houses to her and having a small tributary ~~writing~~ ^{year} about her and her work in their House and Garden Tour Book. The main purpose of Mrs. Chace's efforts was not to make money, but to rejuvenate the city by repairing dilapidated historical homes, even if they did not appear to be of historic quality.

However, it was not until 1963 that the Netop Restorations, Inc. began a restoration on 10 Jenckes Street. The Netop Corporation concentrated their efforts, and business on restoring older homes and buildings in Providence in order to make a profit. This ~~profit~~ ^{profit}, however, is then re-invested in the restoration of another home or building s. Netop does not just put up any old home, but it restores the homes or buildings to "useful, livable structures in all of their pristine beauty" 7.

In maps dating from 1636-1650, the area that is now Jenckes Street was known as W. Arnold and B. Arnold property (highlighted on MAP 1). In a much later map, dated 1798, the area is identified as Joseph Jenckes property. Joseph is the son of Mr. John Jenckes who bought the property off of Mr. Whipple. This is all located in an area near Benefit Street (see highlighted area on MAP 2).

In a map dated from 1870 (an aerial view) the names of the streets are visible, but they no longer say who owns the property (see MAP 3).

In a plat map dated in 1875 it is evident of the division of the acres of land into house lots. The lots on this map (#4) show that during 1875 seven of the ten lots were built upon. these lots were identified as:

- 8 - M. Wood
- 10 - L. Blodget
- 12 - John Gorman
- 18 - Harriet S. Baker
- 22 - Sam W. Brown
- 26 - Mrs. L.W. Goodwin

Two of the lots are discribed as being owned by Hope B. Russell and one lot by Thomas Halsey. It is not clear exactly which lots are theirs.

On a map dated from 1937 (MAP 5) it is clear that there is a space in the middle of the properties. This property space later became a community garden for the homeowners surrounding the property. The garden is now named the Benefit Square Garden. The letters on MAP 5 on the respective houses means the type of home. Described as:

- C- Colonial
- GR- Greek Revival

F- French
LT- Late Tudor
MT- Middle Tudor
ET- Early Tudor
EV- Early Victorian
LV- Late Victorian

10 Jenckes Street is a Greek Revival. Some identifying features of a Greek Revival home are:

- a gabled or hipped roof
- a cornice line
- wide band of trim
- window sashes, most commonly, had a 6 pane glazing.

Greek Revival was a dominant style of American architecture during the 1830^s through the 1850^s. It declined gradually until it was replaced by the popularity of Gothic and Italianate styles during the 1840^s e.