

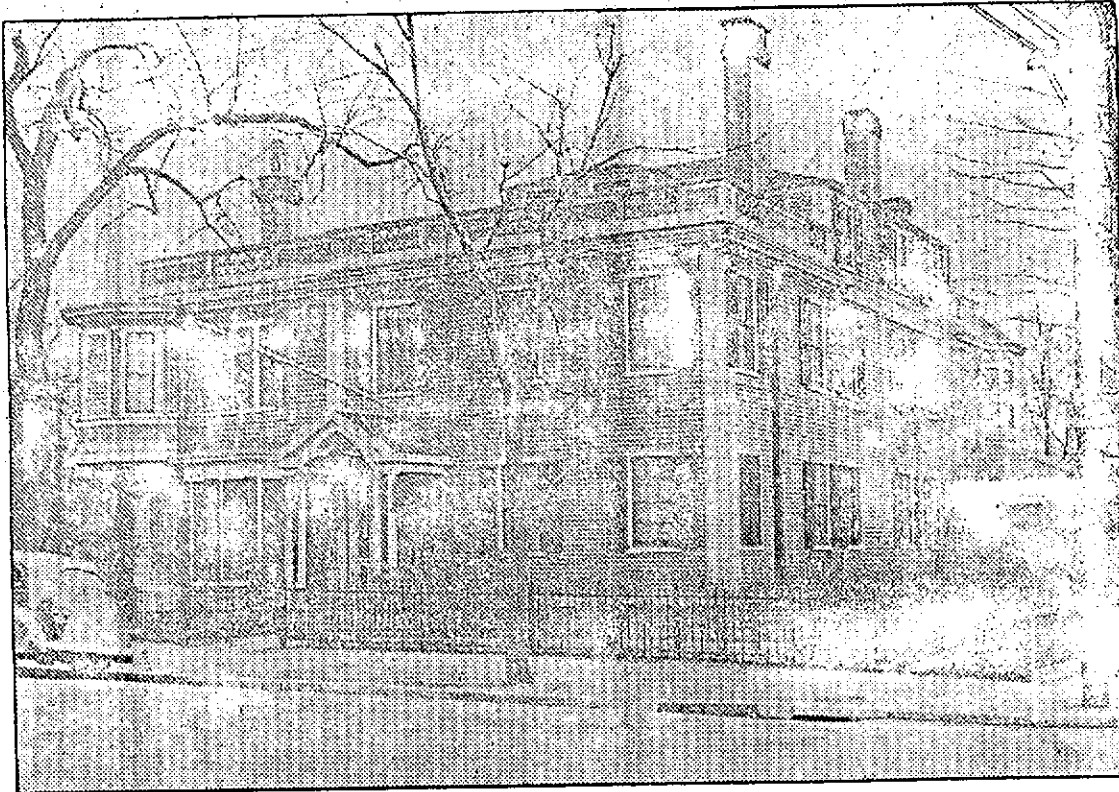
PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

#121 POWER Street

Built c. 1830...By John Ormsbee Ames (?)

John Holden Greene, architect

*\$30,000 Gift to Brown University.*



Historic John Ormsbee Ames mansion, built about 1830 and valued at \$30,000, was given to Brown University by Mrs. John Ormsbee Ames and Frank Mauran, Jr. The building (shown above) is expected to be converted into a residence for bachelor members of the faculty.

## DOORWAY FROM THE JUDGE SAMUEL AMES HOUSE

Built between 1825 and 1828 by

JOSIAH WHITAKER

Formerly on the corner of Brook and Power Streets. Demolished 1952.

The Providence Preservation Society calls your attention to this handsome doorway which came from the house that Judge Samuel Ames, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1856 to 1865, lived in for many years. It has a curved overhead fanlight and is trimmed with the "Gothic" colonnettes often used by the builder architect, John Holden Greene, who designed some of Providence's most beautiful early nineteenth century houses. It typifies the sturdy workmanship found in about three hundred old houses still standing in the College Hill section; and it is shown here as a symbol of the enduring qualities these buildings possess. They rank with the best structures of Charlestown, Georgetown and Beacon Hill and form a treasury of authentic eighteenth and early nineteenth century architecture.

It is the hope of the Providence Preservation Society that it can help to stem the tide of destruction that this doorway, separated from its house, represents. Providence needs its early buildings, for their own worth, to help explain our history, and because

"Architecture is an art whose masterpieces cannot be stored away like paintings or reproduced later like music. The art lives on in the buildings themselves. Without them we are perpetual juveniles, starting over and over, a people without a memory."

The Providence Preservation Society, with the help of the City of Providence and aided by a grant totaling \$72,800 from the Federal Government, is sponsoring a program to restore and keep the old College Hill buildings in active use while improving the living conditions in the neighborhood. If the program is successful, it will mean the development of a residential section of great distinction within walking distance of downtown business in Providence.

Beyond restoring the houses, the plans include enlarging the park around the spring where Providence was settled and marking out an historic trail along Benefit Street. People interested in history and culture will find museums and colleges here as well as houses, churches and whole neighborhoods of architectural and historical merit.

---

### PURPOSE OF THE PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

"The Providence Preservation Society is dedicated to the principle that the evidence of our past is an asset for the future. We realize that in order to protect our significant architectural legacy we must accept the responsibilities as well as the privileges which come with living in an old city. This Society is therefore organized for the encouragement of protecting, improving, and making proper use of our historic sites and buildings."

---