

## CAPTAIN JOSEPH TILLINGHAST HOUSE

**Address:** 403 South Main Street, southwest corner of South Main and James Streets, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island. Flat 16, Lot 18.

An Addendum to  
Captain Tillinghast House  
403 South Main Street  
Providence, Rhode Island  
in HABS Catalog (1941)

**Present Owner:** Mrs. Myles Standish, 100 Angell Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

**Present Occupant:** Unoccupied

**Brief Statement of Significance:** This house, built about 1767, is the only well-preserved survival of the pre-Revolutionary period on the lower part of South Main Street in Providence.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

1. Date of erection: Probably soon after 1767 when Joseph Tillinghast acquired the property.
2. Notes on present condition: The building is unoccupied and is now being renovated for business rentals. A new central heating system with baseboard heaters and new plumbing are being installed. The original partitions are in place and are not being altered, nor are the floors which are also apparently original.

The original entrance was replaced by the present Greek Revival doorway, probably about 1840. A small section of original hallway paneling, painted a medium olive green, was covered over when the doorway was added and is visible in a small closet beside the doorway. The first floor mantels have been partly altered, apparently about the same time as the Greek Revival doorway was added, and some of the mantel shelves on the second floor fireplaces have also been altered.

There is a later bay window between the south rooms on the first floor, and some Greek Revival trim on the doorways between these two rooms. There are later plaster ceiling medallions in these rooms, and also in the central hallway.

1824 }  
1830 } #183

#217 in 1847

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Records of

Plat 16  
Lot 42

#403 SOUTH MAIN STREET...Wood

- 1766 George Taylor quit claims for 56 £ 3 shillings and 6 pence lawful money to Joseph Tillinghast, a certain house Lott bounded: E by Main Street 40'; S by heirs of Charles Tillinghast; W by the Channel of the Salt Water River; N by Joseph Olney...DB 17.478
- 1767 Joseph Olney sells for 200 Spanish milled Dollars, to Joseph Tillinghast, mariner, son of John Tillinghast, one certain lot of land in the compact part of the Town of Providence on the W side of the Towne Street near the S/most end...butted and bounded: E by the Towne Street 40'; S by Joseph Tillinghast; W by the Channel of the Salt River; N by a large gangway...DB 18.221

1798 - Chace Notes -

- 1825 FIRE RECORD: Mary (Tillinghast) Gladding...W side of Main Street...wood...40' front and 36' front to rear...2 stories front and 3 rear Dwelling House. Also on Store #1 on same lot fronting on South Water Street...wood...20' x 60' front to rear...3 stories front and rear... Also store #2...wood...3 stories front and rear...24' x 40'...for storing merchandise including naval stores...Fre Record..Vol 4..#3075

- 1826 DIVISION of the Real Estate of Captain Joseph Tillinghast: 2nd PART:  
To Amey Ann Tillinghast...the N part of the Mansion House and Lot being 16½' on Main Street from the N/E corner of said Lot to the S side of the partition dividing the N side from the S side and Entrees of said house and extends back W/ly, holding that width 68' to a 12' gangway to be laid open as agreed by said parties with use and occupancy of that part of the closet leading from the cellar kitchen in said part that projects under the front entry, together with all privileges and appertances thereto belonging except as hereinafter noted  
..also that lot of land S of the Mansion House not conveyed to the Third Part commencing 10' S of said house from thence measuring 30' on Main Street to land of Thomas Burgess and Peter Pratt, and W/ly 68' to the above said gangway...all of which we value at \$2000..

3rd PART: To Elizabeth A Chandler...the remainder of said Mansion House and lot being 24' on Main Street from the S side of the N partitions dividing the N side from the S side and entrees of said house, and extending W/ly 68' to gangway herein before mentioned, together with all privileges and appertances thereto belonging with privilege of the well in common with owners of the N side, and passing and re - passing to and from the public gangway through the yard belonging to the N part as long as the said Dwelling House shall remain. Also 10' front on Main Street and W/ly 68' to above gangway, S of and next adjoining to said Dwelling House, all of which we value at \$2000.  
DB 51.257

more...

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

2.

#403 SOUTH MAIN STREET....continued

- 1854 Property taxed to Amey Ann (Tillinghast) Arnold 1/3 and Elizabeth G Chandler, widow, 2/3
- 1857 Amey Ann Arnold, widow
- 1881 Mary E Arnold
- 1909 Benjamin G Gladding
- 1915 Hannah T Gladding
- 1922 Mary T Gladding and was in the Gladding- Arnold families until  
-Chandler
- ~1844  
1954 Taxed to Helen Miller
- 1956 Edna H Morgan
- 1960 Standish Realty Inc
- 1961 Lil-Yan Realty Corp
- 1962 Standish Realty Company  
-Chapman-

occupied by the Tillinghast until 1844  
" " Chandlers in 1849 for last time

TILLINGHAST Genealogy:

Joseph Tillinghast b E Greenwich 1/9/1735..d 11/14/1816. Married Mary Earl 11/1776

ISSUE:

William, Joseph, Amey Ann, Elizabeth, Mary.

MARY b 2/15/1786. d 11/27/1867  
m 1st Benjamin T Chandler 1807  
m 2nd John G Gladding 1815

ELIZABETH b 9/16/1793  
m Lemuel Chandler 1812

AMEY ANN m William Arnold

# Providence Directory

# 1824

1824

J. Tellinghast, sail-maker

# 191

Joseph " , taylor

# 89

William " , rear

1830

# 189

Thos. H. Telling

191

Joseph " taylor

1838

191

Joseph Tiel, taylor

189

Philip, sail maker

189

Thos " , " "

1841

191

Joseph Tiel taylor

189

Thos. H. 'Sail maker.

1844

189

Thos. H. Telling.

189

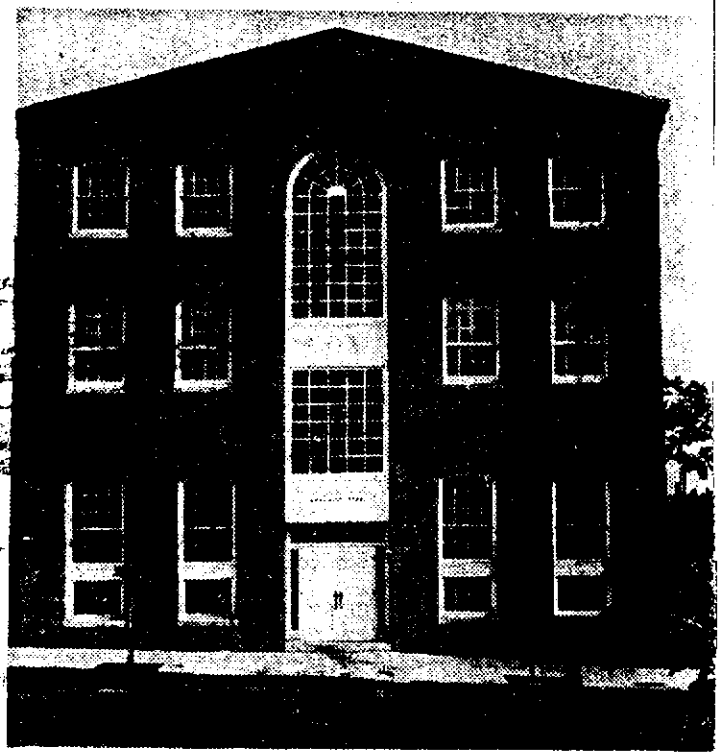
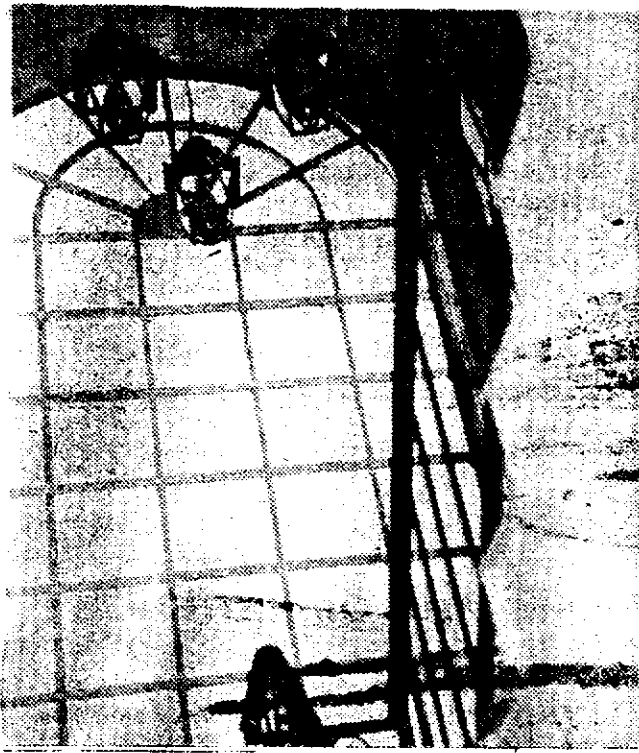
Wm " "

(1847)

# 217

Chandler Benj. T., mariner

Eloy. G. widow



Building at 25 Pike St. has been restored, transformed, both inside (left) and out.



Antiquated foundry, before rebuilding program began in fall.

## Structure, 12 Decades Old, Regains Colonial Look

An old brick building on the Providence waterfront where molten iron once sent waves of heat shimmering up to heavy beamed ceilings no longer looks like a foundry.

In fact, under the impact of an intensive renovation program it is said now to conform to the planned restoration of the South Water and South Main Street areas in the original

Colonial style. It is also an example of what can be done to modernize an antiquated factory building.

The building, measuring 45 feet in width and 81 in depth, was erected on the present site at Pike and South Main Streets in the year 1840. It was constructed as part of a complex of buildings for the Fuller Iron Works, a company established by Frederick Fuller for the manufacture of steam engines, pipes and castings by the Fox Point Foundry Co.

The last iron was poured in 1933 and the building was rented for storage purposes by various firms until 1938 when it was bought by the Volunteers of America and used by that group as a warehouse.

In October, 1965, the property was sold to Howard M. Johnson, owner of the Old Colony Advertising Co. and the Weybosset Sign Co. and former owner of Standard Johnson Co.

In the restoration, original floors and beamed ceilings were left intact. Exterior brick was steam cleaned and pointed. Original windows were kept wherever possible and were duplicated when not in acceptable condition.

Three massive receiving doors on the front of the building have been replaced by Colonial style windows and doors but have not been discarded. They will be refinished and used in some form or other at a later date.

Examination of hardware on these doors shows it to have been forged in 1840.

A new front stairway, protected by wrought-iron railings, has been installed and a modern note added, farther back in the building, with the installation of a passenger elevator.

So vast was the space between the original "street level" first floor and the ceiling, that the renovators excavated for a few feet and made two stories where one had been before.

Currently, the third floor is

occupied by the Carvounis King Associates, a consulting engineering firm. The top lower two floors, each containing approximately 3,000 square feet, are ready for lease.

A continuation of the building erected in 1893 for Fuller's machine shop, is the home of Weybosset Sign Co. Its exterior was considered revolutionary when the building was put up that it consisted of structural steel, slate, and ribbed glass. Today, these walls are covered largely by asphalt shingles.

C.H.U.

