

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Records of

27-29

~~#31~~ BENEFIT STREET....Wood

Plat 9  
Lot 170

#25 in 1857

1841 INDENTURE: Partition of the heirs of Thomas L. Halsey in 5 parts: Set off to party of the 5th part, Mary Anna Wright, minor, ...also lot #3 (in Plat Book #2 page 5...Deed Book 81.103) bounded: **N** by Lot #5 50'; S by Lot #2 102½'; W by Benefit Street 50'; N by the so-called Free Chapel Lot 102½'. ...DB 81.103

1853 By authorization of the General Assembly, John Carter Brown and Thomas Burgess, as trustees of Mary Anna Head, lately Mary Anna Wright, sell for \$1500 to Allen Greene a certain lot of land on the S/ly side of the Lot on which the Free Chapel stands and is Lot #3 bounded as the above...DB 135.81 <sup>(Halsey)</sup>

1857 Allen Greene lived here for the first time...Prov Directory

1909 Mary E B Greene, widow, sells to David Tiersten a certain lot of land bounded **N** by lot #5 50'; S by Lot #2 102½'; W by Benefit Street 50'; N by the lot on which the Free Chapel stands...DB and is a portion of the premises conveyed to grantor by deed from Allen Green in 1903 (DB 480.342)....DB 502.277

This property changed hands several times and was taxed in

1961 Burnside Inc

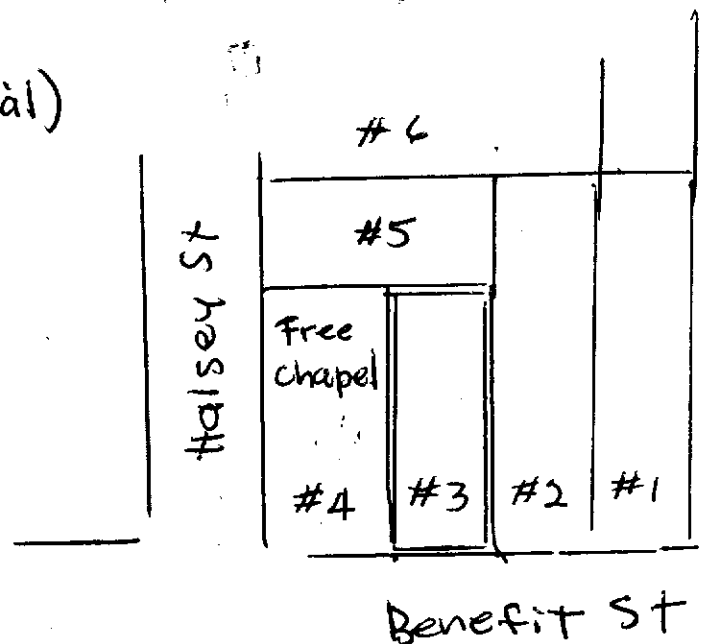
1962 Beatrice O Chace

1973 Mrs. Constance Bainbridge

Plat Book #2 page 5  
Division of the Estate of (partial)

Thomas Lloyd Halsey

1840



PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

#27-29 Benefit Street.

ALLEN GREENE:

Allen Greene, b 1818 was the son of William and Phebe (Brown) Greene. In 1844 he m. <sup>M</sup>aria <sup>M</sup>Cook of Boston. They had 2 sons and one Daughter, Emma R who married Samuel N Smith.

"At the early age of 15 years he was apprenticed to Charles Smith a carriage-maker, and after acquiring thorough knowledge of the trade, began business for himself in 1838. ~~In~~

In 1858 the Khedive of Egypt having ordered a representative carriage from the different nations of the world, Mr Greene was selected to build the representative American carriage, and he chose the New England chaise. Mr Greene served for several years in the Committee Council and in the House of Representatives, was a member of the ~~Common Council~~/joint committee to build the Doyle Avenue School edifice, and in 1877 was appointed on the Board of Commissions to build the new State Prison in Cranston. He died in 1888. "

Greene Genealogy...R I Hist Soc...p.607

NUMBERS TWENTY-SEVEN AND TWENTY-NINE BENEFIT STREET  
THE ALLEN GREENE HOUSE (Built Between 1853 and 1857)  
OWNERS: (27) Mrs. Malcolm G. Chace, Jr.  
Unoccupied (Open)  
(29) Mr. and Mrs. Burges Green  
Unoccupied (Not Open)

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS BY

Originally built as a single house, this square symmetrical wooden house with its low hipped roof, overhanging bracketed cornice, doubled windows under heavy moldings and one-story classic portico, is a three-story vernacular version of the "Florentine Villa" type that came into fashion in the 1850's. It stands on lot #3, set off to Mary Ann Wright in the 1841 partition of the Thomas Lloyd Halsey Estate. Allen Greene, who also built #11 Halsey Street, bought the lot in 1853 and by 1857 was living in the house.

Allen Greene was a carriage maker. At fifteen, he had been apprenticed to Charles Smith to learn the trade and in 1838 he opened his own business. He evidently became a skilled artisan because his workmanship brought its modicum of fame to Providence. In 1858, the Khedive of Egypt ordered representative carriages from the different nations of the world, and Allen Greene received the commission to make the American example. He chose the "wonderful one-hoss shay" of Oliver Wendell Holmes' poem- the New England chaise.

Greene lived in the Benefit Street house, then numbered 25, until his death in 1885, and the property remained in the family until 1909, by which date it had been converted into a double house, divided vertically through the central hall. Burnside Corporation acquired it in 1962 for restoration as part of Benefit Square. Since then, asphalt siding applied in the last twenty years has been stripped off and the house is again revealed in its original character of a dignified vernacular example of the Italianate style. The paneled corner pilasters replace the original corner quoins.

Number 27, open for the day, is still unrestored.