

SHELDON HOUSE

Edward B. Hall

Address: 336 Benefit Street, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island. Flat 16, Lot 76.

Present Owner: Arusha Corporation.

Present Occupants: Various tenants.

Present Use: Apartment house.

Brief Statement of Significance: This mid-nineteenth-century double house is an unusual example of Gothic Revival detail on College Hill.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1825 Edward S. Sheldon, Rosanna and Christopher and Audrey Sheldon sell for \$1800 to Nicholas Brown and Thomas P. Ives under name of Brown & Ives a certain lot of land with all buildings and thereon bounded - E by Benefit Street, W by grantors, S by Power Street, and N by Samuel Wooden, it being the estate formerly owned by the late Captain Edward Spalding. [Deed Book 48, page 301, in Providence City Hall]
- 1854 Taxed to Israel Sheldon heirs
- 1864 Heirs of Israel Sheldon sell to George R. Sheldon for \$6,250 and forever quit claim to him the sd. George R. Sheldon a certain lot of land bounded E by Benefit St., N by William Chandler, S by Power St., and W by heirs of T. P. Ives. [Deed Book 167, page 287, in Providence City Hall]
- 1865 George R. Sheldon sells to Edward B. Hall a certain lot of land with ~~double~~ house. [Deed Book 173, page 61, in Providence City Hall] *Dwelling*
- 1872 Louisa J. Hale, widow, for \$17,500 sells to Moses R. I. Goddard, trustee u/w Moses B. Jenkins [Deed Book 199, page 291, in Providence City Hall] a certain lot of land "which was conveyed to me by George R. Sheldon" Bounded E by Benefit St., S by Power St., N by William Chandler, W by Robert Ives. [Deed Book 199, page 336, in Providence City Hall]

1872 Moses B. Jenkins Estate
1896 " " " " N.I. N.T. Co., trustee
1903 Alice H. Fox wife Austin G. and Anna A.C. Carter, Estate
1920 A.G. Carter Estate
1922 Alice H. Fox, wife, Austin G.
1922 Russell R. Fry [Deed Book 627, page 337, in Providence City Hall]
1923 William H. Hill
1924 Ellen Gamfield
1929 Mary F. Gamfield
1939 Home Owners Loan Corp.
1940 James J. Wynne & Alice M. Wynne, j.t.
1942 Robert L. Walker Co.
1946 Arusha Corp.

2. **Dates of erection:** The date of erection is not entirely clear from the available documents. The house shown on this lot on the map of Providence prepared by Gushman and Welling in 1879 has a different shape from the present house, and is probably an earlier one. The house mentioned in the deed of 1865 is probably the present one, and in that case the house would have been built for the Israel Sheldon heirs or for George R. Sheldon between 1879 and 1865.

B. **Historical Events Connected with Structure:** Edward B. Hall (1808-1866), who purchased the house in 1865, was a prominent Unitarian clergyman. [See The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Rhode Island (Providence, 1881), pp. 154-155.]

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowley
for the Providence Preservation Society
August 1961

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. **Architectural character:** This is a mid-nineteenth-century frame house. With pointed, arched doorways and elaborately carved bargeboards, it is one of the few domestic examples of the Gothic Revival in this part of Providence.

2. **Condition of fabric:** Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. **Over-all dimensions:** The house faces east and consists of three parts: the principal section runs north-south

with the front entrance on the long east side, and is about 40' x 25'; set back slightly and projecting to the north of the main section is a wing about 20' x 25'; projecting to the rear, or east, of the other two, making a T-shape, is a wing about 16' x 25'. All three sections are two-and-a-half stories high plus a cellar, which is at ground level at the rear.

2. Foundations: Brick.

3. Wall construction: Frame, covered with clapboards, with corner boards with heavy beaded edges. The corners of the first floor of the south end of the house are cut off on a diagonal forming a semi-hexagonal end, and where the second floor projects over the first at the corners it is supported on heavy wood brackets. A double belt course of flat boards separates the two stories.

4. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys with corbelled caps.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Main entrance in center on east front with similar secondary entrance at north end of east front. Panel doors with upper halves lighted. Shallow recessed doorways enframed with Tudor Gothic arches in wood.

b. Windows: Double-hung windows, six-light, four-light, and two-light sash. Bay window over main entrance, with hip roof. Window frames have wide facing boards with chamfered edges.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Cross-shaped roof with gables on the east, north, and west ends, and a hip on the south end. Covered with asphalt shingles.

b. Eaves: Horizontal eaves have simple molded cornices. Eaving eaves on gables have elaborate, perforated bargeboards.

c. Dormers: Small, hip-roofed dormers with wide four-light-over-four-light windows.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: First floor: front entrance hall with stairway, large parlor to the south, large room to the west, a row of four smaller rooms just north of the entrance hall, two larger rooms on the north side of the house. Second floor similar.

SHELTON HOUSE

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2. **Stairways:** U-shaped stairway behind front entrance hall, three straight runs with landings, heavy square newels with bell-shaped drops, turned balusters, molded rail, plain step ends.
 3. **Flooring:** Wood flooring, 2" wide boards.
 4. **Wall and ceiling finish:** Plaster.
 5. **Doors and windows:** Panel doors; heavy molded and mitered door and window frames.
 6. **Trim:** Heavy molded plaster ceiling cornices, small ceiling medallions.
 7. **Hardware:** Butt hinges, silver-plated round knobs.
 8. **Lighting:** Electric.
 9. **Heating:** Fireplaces in many rooms, some with one-story marble mantels with heavy, carved, bracketed detail.
- D. **Site:** The house faces east on a small lot at the northwest corner of Benefit and Power Streets. The lot slopes down steeply to the west, with the cellar on the west opening to a small garden.

Prepared by **Osmond R. Overby**
Yale University
August 1961

Built 1864
by Edward Brooks Hall

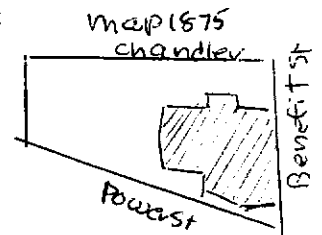
270
1847

176
1844

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY
336 BENEFIT STREET

PLAT 16
LOT 76

- 1798 CHACE NOTES PLACES SPALDING HERE IN 1798.
- 1814 PROVIDENCE DIRECT TAX: AUBRY SPALDING. 1 LOT ON W SIDE OF BENEFIT STREET 80' X 60' DEEP WITH SMALL 2 STORY HOUSE, BEING HOMESTEAD EST. OF EDWARD SPALDING.
- 1822 PR 1,2214 - see other pic
- 1825 EDWARD S. SHELDON, ROSANNA AND CHRISTOPHER AND AUDREY SHELDON SELL FOR \$1800 TO NICHOLAS BROWN AND THOMAS P. IVES UNDER NAME OF BROWN & IVES A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND THEREON BOUNDED - E BY BENEFIT STREET, W BY GRANTORS, S BY POWER STREET, AND N BY SAMUEL WEEBEN, IT BEING THE ESTATE FORMERLY OWNED BY THE LATE CAPTAIN EDWARD SPALDING. DB 48/301
- 1853 Policy Record 52,22176 - same as PR 1,2214
- 1854 TAXED TO ISRAEL SHELDON HEIRS. - value DH - 200. Ledger
- 1857 HOUSE STANDING ON MAP OF CUSHMAN & WALLING.
- 1864 HEIRS OF ISRAEL SHELDON SELL TO GEORGE R. SHELDON FOR \$6,250 ^{Tax Value \$200} AND FOREVER Q C TO HIM THE SD. GEORGE R. SHELDON A CERTAIN LOT ^{Series A 4,174} OF LAND BOUNDED E BY BENEFIT ST., N BY WILLIAM CHANDLER, S BY POWER ST., AND W BY HEIRS OF T.P. IVES. ^{for \$25.00} DB 167/287 ^{A.2.325 p.324}
- 1865 GEORGE R. SHELDON SELLS TO EDWARD B. HALL (HALE?) A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND WITH D. H. AND IMPROVE THE ABOVE PROPERTY. CB 173/61 - Val ^{See *}
- 1865 MRS. BROOKS HALL LIVED HERE. PROV. DIR.
- 1867 Edward B Hall - Taxed value of DH 5,000 - Series B, 2390 .p.390
- 1872 LOUISA J. HALE, WIDOW, FOR \$17,500 SELLS TO MOSES R. I. GODDARD, TRUSTEE U/W MOSES B. JENKINS (199/291) A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND "WHICH WAS CONVEYED TO ME BY GEORGE R. SHELDON". BOUNDED E BY BENEFIT ST., S BY POWER ST., N BY WILLIAM CHANDLER, W BY ROBERT IVES. DB 199/356
- 1872 MOSES B. JENKINS ESTATE
- 1896 " " " R.I.H.T.Co., TRUSTEE
- 1903 ALICE H. FOX WIFE AUSTEN G. AND ANNA A.C.CARTER, ESTATE
- 1920 A.C.CARTER ESTATE
- 1922 ALICE H. FOX, WIFE, AUSTIN G.
- 1922 RUSSELL R. FRAY 627/337
- 1923 WILLIAM H. HILL
- 1924 ELLEN CAMFIELD
- 1929 MARY F. CAMFIELD
- 1939 HOME OWNERS LOAN CORP.
- 1940 JAMES J. WYNNE & ALICE M. WYNNE, J.T.
- 1948 ROBERT L. WALKER CO.
- 1956 ARUSHA CORP.



* 1865 Geo. R. Sheldon to Edward B Hall - that lot of land with DH et al improve Bounded - no other meas. given DB 173.61

NOTE:
1786 EDWARD SPALDING WILL 71
DAUGHTER - AMEY SHELDON
WIFE - AUDREY
SON - JOHN