

JAMES GORHAM HOUSE

Address: 36 Benefit Street, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island

Plat 3, lot 226. This lot was 40 Benefit Street, in 1844, 54 Benefit Street in 1847, 56 Benefit Street in 1866.

Present Owner: Gorham Manufacturing Company.

Present Occupant: Unoccupied.

Present Use:

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a typical wooden house of the 1790's built for James Gorham, the father of the founder of Gorham Silver company.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1790 Joseph Whipple, yeoman, sells to Sarah Hall, widow, a certain lot of land bounded E on Benefit Street 40'; S by Star Lane 80'; W by Joseph Whipple 40'; N by Joseph Whipple (or lately)... "Land opposite the NEW house of Amos Allen"... Deed Book 21, page 705, in Providence City Hall.
- 1791 Sarah Hall, widow, to John Lee "A certain lot of land...it being the same I bought of Joseph Whipple in 1790"... Deed Book 23, page 33, in Providence City Hall.
- 1791 John Lee, cordwainer, sells to Joseph Burr, skinner "A lot of land opposite Amos Allen's New House...it being the same I bought of Sarah Hall"... Deed Book 23, page 154, in Providence City Hall.
- 1792 Joseph Burr, sells for 25E silver lawful money sells to Jabez Gorham (father of the founder of Gorham's Silver) and James Burr, saddlers, in equal moiety "one certain house lot of land bounded: Beginning at the S/E corner by the back of Benefit Street and Star Lane (so-called) and opposite Amos Allen's House; thence N/ly and bounding E/ly on Benefit Street 40'; thence W/ly bounding N/ly on land of Joseph Whipple 80'; thence S/ly and bounding W/ly

on land of said Joseph Whipple 40', bounding S/ly on Star Lane 80' it being the same I bought of John Lee"...Deed Book 23, page 154, in Providence City Hall.

- 1798 Henry R. Chase, Owners and Contents of the Lots, Houses and Shops in the Town of Providence, R. I. in 1798 Located on Maps of the Highways of that Date (Providence, 1914). Jabez Gorham: E on Benefit Street; S on Star Lane. W side of Benefit Street...Wood...41' x 32'..2 stories wood. Taxed for \$1000 (Taken from U S Census)
- 1802 James Burr, saddler, gives quit claim for \$750 to Jabez Gorham a certain lot of land "together with DWELLING HOUSE and all other buildings thereon standing"...Deed Book 27, page 362, in Providence City Hall.
- 1802 Jabez Gorham gives life tenancy to wife, Caty, then property is to be sold, Samuel Gorham, brother, the executor..Wills Book 9, page 62 in Providence City Hall.
- 1810 Samuel Gorham, executor of the estate of his brother Jabez Gorham, sells for \$1600 at public auction the above property to Joseph S. Cooke, the highest bidder...Deed Book 33, page 194, in Providence City Hall.
- 1810 Fire Records: To Joseph S. Cooke...House now occupied by widow Gorham, and formerly owned by Jabez Gorham. Wood.. 34' front and 28' front to rear..2 stories high in front and 3 in rear..Mas. fire insurance records of the Providence Mutual Insurance Co. at the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, R. I. Vol. 3, policy #1178.
- 1814 Joseph S. Cooke...1 dwelling House...wood, 2 st high in front and 3 in rear. 34' in length and 28' in depth standing on lot on the corner of Benefit and Star Streets...41-1/2 on Benefit and 31' deep. (formerly belonging to Major Jabez Gorham) In the rear of it is a lot 31' on Star Street and 78' deep with a 1 story building on the same..in the rear built by the late Joseph Whipple for a chaise house, now unoccupied. (Prov. Direct Tax 1814). Mas. tax descriptions in the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence, for the 1814 Providence direct tax to the federal government.
- 1817 Joseph S. Cooke sells for \$2,700 the above property to William Russell mariner, and is the same estate conveyed to Samuel Gorham as executor of the estate of Jabez Gorham... Also a small lot of land with a chaise house..Deed Book 41, page 30, in Providence City Hall.
- 1823 William Russell, merchant, sells for \$2500 to Jabez Gorham a certain lot of land with a Dwelling House on the N/E corner of Star St. and is the same estate conveyed to grantor by Joseph S. Cook, in 1817. Deed Book 47, page 7, in Providence City Hall.

1894 Amy W. Wheeler, wife of Benjamin, and Harriet W. Greenwood (nee Webb) wife of Benjamin, sell to Margaret L. McLaughlin "a certain lot of land with all buildings and improvements thereon on the N/W corner of Star and Benefit Streets...being the premises that belonged to the grandfather of the grantors, the late James Gorham, at the time of his decease...Deed Book 350, page 137, in Providence City Hall.

This property was taxed to the following persons in the years designated:

1894 Margaret L. McLaughlin  
1920 Benjamin Hymen  
1920 Sadie Couras  
1934 Peter A. Couras  
1935 Sadie Couras  
1937 Sadie Couras Estate  
1938 David Couras & wife Bera  
1939 Proprietors, Swan Point Cemetery  
1944 Harry L. Bates & Wf Katherine  
1945 Katherine E Bates wid Harry  
1946 Axel E. Johnson  
1953 Lee Jay Corp.  
1958 Burnside Corp.  
1961 Gorham Manufacturing Co., to be a museum of early Gorham silver.

2. Date of erection: Built between 1792-1798.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The house was restored after 1938 when the Burnside Corporation bought it.

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

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: Typical wooden house of the period with restored exterior.

2. Foundations: Random field stone or brick.
3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame, exposed on interior plank walls, covered with clapboards. North side of wing is shingled; beaded corner boards.
4. Chimneys: One center brick chimney, recently rebuilt. One small brick chimney in wing.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Six panel front door, added since 1958, Ionic frontispiece with flat pilasters, pulvinated frieze, pediment with modillion cornice. Six panel door with top light in simple frame on south side. Six panel door in rear wing at cellar level.
  - b. Windows and shutters: 12 over 12 light double hung windows in projecting wood frames with high wood lintels with ornamental work scrolled keystones. No shutters. 6" x 8" panes of glass. Windows added since 1958.
6. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs, asphalt shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Bowed eaves; molded cornice returned slightly at the gable ends. Second floor window heads continuous with the cornice bed mold.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Center chimney, five-room plan.
2. Stairways: U-shaped, closed string stairway in front entrance hall, with molded hand rail, turned balusters, and turned newels.
3. Flooring: Wide board flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: four panel doors probably not original. Plain door frames with a simple, molded, mitred strip of trim.
6. Trim: Wood cornice apparently not original.
7. Hardware: Not original.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Later mantels with round-headed openings in first floor parlors.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces east on the sidewalk of a residential street.
2. Walks: Flagstone
3. Landscaping, gardens: Small rear yard, not tended as house is vacant.

Prepared by Oswald R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
August, 1961.

56 Benefit

Copy of letter sent by Major Jabez Gorham of 1760,  
father of the founder of the Gorham Company.

Charleston June the 1796

9

Der Dartar as I donte Sale So Sune as I Engaged  
I think you you wood be Glad to have a Line from  
me I am in Good helth at prasant I hope thes lines  
will find you in Good helth as they Leve me and yor  
Brothars & Sestars I hope you gow to (S)Cole and to  
metem with your brothr Banjaiman & Bethe and Jabez &  
Cate teel them to bee Good Cheldran and mind thair  
mame teel Bethair not to be a fronted bee Cose I  
donte rite to hor I will bring har Sum Groun nuts  
I wish you wood teell me wather Brothor John Goes a  
lone or wot If he Does kees hem for me Good By Der  
I expect to Sale from hear to morrow Geve my Compland  
to mr. Pickford & all frends I ramane youar Loving  
farthor untell Deth (do) Kome be Love(d)

(Signed) Major Jabez Gorham  
of 1760

Mes Hannah Gorham  
Providence  
State Rodisland

JABEZ GORHAM

1792

Founder of the Gorham Company  
Silversmiths of Providence, R. I.

Jabez Gorham, the sixth child of Jabez Gorham and Catherine Tyler, was born February 18, 1792, "in Sam Hamlin's house, north corner of Church and Benefit Street". His father was born in Providence, R.I., and died there in 1802, leaving a widow and eight children. Young Jabez was placed in the family of a relative, Stephen Williams, an uncle by marriage, who lived in Ship Street, and was a watch mender (repairer). This relative took to drink, and Mrs. Gorham apprenticed her boy in his 14th year to Nehemiah Dodge to learn the Jewelry trade, living at his master's home. The mother died in 1807 and the house was sold.

Jabez Gorham after 21 continued to work for Dodge three or four months, at his shop north corner of Thomas and North Main. He next worked for Manning or Newman, Justram and John Jencks, in Arnold Whipple's shop in High Street. They furnished him stock from their works in President Street. Next a firm formed consisting of Henry Mumford, George Clark, C. Burr, William Hawdon, and Gorham, under the name of The Firm of Christopher Burr, & Co. On Benefit Street, north of College. They were together about----- years. Then started on N. corner of Steeple and North Main built on half of second story. Next the firm built a shop on Benefit Street on the Waterman lot right next to the Kingsbury School House. This building was afterward moved into N. Court Street. Firm dissolved. Jabez then moved uptown. Lived in D. Thurber's chambers. In 1820 went to housekeeping in old house, corner of Benefit and Cady's Lane. Worked in old building opposite on his "own." To old corner on Steeple Street, hired of E Burr for 40 dollars rent. Bought the establishment on Steeple Street and moved there about 1831.

Gorham and Beebe Manufacturer of Jewelry over 73 N. Main.

The Dodge shop stood on the Roger Williams estate, the site of which is now (prior to 1869) occupied by a brick dwelling house, covering the Roger Williams spring.

- From mms. of my great-grandfather Jabez Gorham dictated to his son, John Gorham.

Margaret Gorham Edwards  
New Port Richey, Fla.

"THE FAMILY REGISTER"

"Wrought June 24, 1800"

Jabez Gorham was born A.D. 1750; June 15 was married to Catharine Tyler, 1783, she was then aged 21 years.

Their first child Hannah, was born Feb. 19, 1784.

Their second child Benjamin, was born March 2, 1786.

Their third child Field, was born July 27, 1787. And died Dec. 11, 1788.

Their fourth child Bethiah, the person who is now recording was born March 16, 1789.

Their fifth child, Sarah, was born Jan. 27, 1791. And departed this life August 21, 1791.

Their sixth child, Jabez, was born Feb. 18, 1792.

Their Seventh Child, Catharine, was born June 30, 1793.

Their Eighth Child, John, was born June 4, 1795.

Their Ninth Child, Sarah, was born Feb. 2, 1797.

Their Tenth Child, William Field, was born April 30, 1798.

Copied from Sampler in my possession by inheritance.

Signed, Margaret Gorham Edwards  
New Port Richey, Fla.

Note: Catharine Tyler, wife of Jabez Gorham, 1750, and mother of Jabez Gorham 1792, was the daughter of William Tyler, who was born at Attleboro, Mass. and died at Providence, Rhode Island, November 2, 1816. 5th generation from Job Tyler, born England.

Jabez Gorham 1750 the son of Jabez, of Benjamin of Jabez, of Capt. John 1620, England, who came to Plymouth 1637 and married Desire Howland. He lived in Marshfield, Mass. presumably on the Edward Winslow "great lots" or Land Grant for the raising of cattle. He moved to Yarmouth Port in Cape Cod in 1651 and bought a Salt Marsh farm and raised cattle, attaining Barnstable land also.



PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

RECORDS OF

PLAT 3  
Lot 22<sup>b</sup>

#56 BENEFIT STREET...WOOD

#40 IN 1824      #40 IN 1844      #54 IN 1847      #56 IN 1866  
c. 1793

- 1790 JOSEPH WHIPPLE, YEOMAN, SELLS TO SAHAR HALL, WIDOW, A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND BOUNDED E ON BENEFIT STREET 40'; S BY STAR LANE 80'; W BY JOSEPH WHIPPLE 40'; N BY JOSEPH WHIPPLE (OR LATELY)...DB 21/705
- 1791 SARAH HALL, WIDOW, TO JOHN LEE "A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND ...IT BEING THE SAME I BOUGHT OF JOSEPH WHIPPLE IN 1790"...DB 23/33
- 1791 JOHN LEE, COBURNER, SELLS TO JOSEPH BURR, SKINNER " A LOT OF LAND OPPOSITE AMOS ALLEN'S NEW HOUSE..IT BEING THE SAME I BOUGHT OF SARAH HALL"...DB 23/154
- 1792 JOSEPH BURR, SELLS FOR 25 L SILVER LAWFUL MONEY SELLS TO JABEZ GORHAM (FATHER OF THE FOUNDER OF GORHAM'S SILVER) AND JAMES BURR, SADDLERS, I IN EQUAL MOIETY " ONE CERTAIN HOUSE LOT OF LAND BOUNDED: BEGINNING AT THE S/E CORNER BY THE BACK OR BENEFIT STREET AND STAR LANE (SO-CALLED) AND OPPOSITE AMOS ALLEN'S HOUSE; THENCE N/LY AND BOUNDING E/LY ON BENEFIT STREET 40'; THENCE W/LY BOUNDING N/LY ON LAND OF JOSEPH WHIPPLE 80'; THENCE S/LY AND BOUNDING W/LY ON LAND OF SAID JOSEPH WHIPPLE 40', BOUNDING S/LY ON STAR LANE 80', IT BEING THE SAME I BOUGHT OF JOHN LEE"...DB 23/154
- \* 1802 *see next page* JAMES BURR, SADDLER, GIVES QUIT CLAIM FOR \$750 TO JABEZ GORHAM A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND "TOGETHER WITH DWELLING HOUSE AND ALL OTHER BUILDINGS THERON STANDING"...DB 27/362
- 1802 JABEZ GORHAM GIVES LIFE TENANCY TO WIFE, CATY, THEN PROPERTY IS TO BE SOLD BY SAMUEL GORHAM, BROTHER, THE EXECUTOR..WILL 9/62
- 1810 SAMUEL GORHAM, EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF HIS BROTHER JABEZ GORHAM, SELLS FOR \$1600 AT PUBLIC AUCTION THE ABOVE PROPERTY TO JOSEPH S COOKE, THE HIGHEST BIDDER...33/194
- 1810 FIRE RECORDS: TO JOSEPH S COOKE ..HOUSE NOW OCCUPIED BY WIDOW GORHAM, AND FORMERLY OWNED BY JABEZ GORHAM. WOOD..34' FRONT AND 28' FRONT TO REAR..2 STORIES HIGH IN FRONT AND 3 IN REAR..VOL 3..#1178
- 1814 - *see other side next page*
- 1817 JOSEPH S COOKE SELLS FOR \$2,700 THE ABOVE PROPERTY TO WILLIAM RUSSELL MARINER, AND IS THE SAME ESTATE CONVEYED TO SAMUEL GORHAM AS EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF JABEZ GORHAM...ALSO A SMALL LOT OF LAND WITH A CHAISE HOUSE...DB 41/50
- 1823 WILLIAM RUSSELL, MERCHANT, SELLS FOR \$2500 TO JABEZ GORHAM A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND WITH A DWELLING HOUSE ON THE N/E CORNER OF STAR STREET AND IS THE SAME ESTATE CONVEYED TO GRANTOR BY JOSEPH S COOK IN 1817. DB 47/7

see N. G. records

#56 BENEFIT STREET....CONTINUED

1894 AMEY W WHEELER, WIFE OF BENJAMIN AND HARRIET W GREENWOOD (NEE WEBB) WIFE OF BENJAMIN BELL TO MARGARET L McLAUGHLIN "A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ON THE N/W CORNER OF OF STAR AND BENEFIT STREETS...BEING THE PREMISES THAT BELONGED TO THE GRANDFATHER OF THE GRANTORS, THE LATE JABEZ GORHAM, AT THE TIME OF HIS DECEASE...DB 390/137

\* 1798 CHACE NOTES: JABEZ GORHAM: E ON BENEFIT STREET: S ON STAR LANE. W SIDE OF BENEFIT STREET...WOOD...41'x32'. 2 STORIES WOOD. TAXED FOR \$1000 (TAKEN FROM U S CENSUS)

2. FROM PROVIDENCE DIRECTORY:

1812 MOSES RICHARDSON  
1824 JABEZ GORHAM  
1844 JABEZ GORHAM  
1847 JABEZ GORHAM, JOHN GORHAM AND HENRY WEBB, CASHIER  
1866 HENRY WEBB  
1892 HARRIET GREENWOOD

THIS PROPERTY WAS TAXED TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS IN THE YEARS DESIGNATED:

1894	MARGARET L McLAUGHLIN	1938	DAVID COMRAS & WIFE DORA
1920	BENJAMIN HYMAN	1939	PROPRIETORS, SWAN POINT CEMETERY
1920	SADIE COMRAS	1944	HARRY L BATES & WF KATHERINE
1934	PETER A COMRAS	1945	KATHERINE E BATES WID HARRY
1935	SADIE COMRAS	1946	AXEL E JOHNSON
1937	SADIE COMRAS ESTATE	1953	LEE JAY CORP
		1958	BURNSIDE CORP
		1961	GORHAM MANUFACTURING CO

1. 1814 JOSEPH S COOKE:..1 DWELLING HOUSE...WOOD, 2 ST HIGH IN FRONT AND 3 IN REAR. 34' IN LENGTH AND 28' IN DEPTH STANDING ON LOT ON THE CORNER OF BENEFIT AND STAR STREETS...41½' ON BENEFIT AND 81' DEEP. (FORMERLY BELONGING TO MAJOR JABEZ GORHAM) IN THE REAR OF IT IS A LOT 31' ON STAR STREET AND 78' DEEP WITH A 1 STORY BUILDING ON THE SAME...IN THE REAR BUILT BY THE LATE JOSEPH WHIPPLE FOR A CHAISE HOUSE, NOW UNOCCUPIED. (Prov. Direct Tax 1814)

From:

"Pembroke Alumna"

January, 1961



College Hill Demonstration Study

## A Plan for Pembroke's Future Setting

by Marjorie Jones Stenberg '54

IT IS DOUBTFUL that anyone who has spent four years in college in Providence could leave the city without having been impressed by the variety of architectural masterpieces which surround the University. The East Side abounds with houses and public buildings which invite leisurely appraisal and curiosity about their age and history. The many Colonial homes seem, somehow, to provide what is actually a city-school with a distinctly rural feeling, or at least tend to separate it from present day accelerated living. This feeling is an important, though often underestimated, addition to the overall atmosphere of Pembroke and Brown.

Right now, Providence is proving to be an exciting place in which to live or to study. In contrast to the feeling in much of New England that economic and cultural leadership is passing from the region, due to the removal of many industries to other locations and the blossoming of Midwest and far West art and literary centers, Providence is starting on a long range plan to improve itself in many areas. The ambitious Downtown Master Plan is designed to provide a now sliding city with new housing, large, traffic-less, and beautifully landscaped pedestrian shopping malls, a new government center, extensive by-pass highways and a mass of modernized stores.

COLLEGE HILL, under a proposed 25-year plan, is designed to be given new life through unique historic area renewal. A demonstration study to make recommendations for the project was sponsored by the Housing and Home Agency in Washington, The Providence Preservation Society, and the Providence City Planning Commission. About 300 houses and public buildings were examined and classified and the proposals were published in book form.

Brown University inadvertently provided the impetus for this College Hill Study through an unfortunate set of circumstances. The construction of the Brown Quadrangles necessitated the clearing of considerable land, and in the process, about 30 historically valuable homes, including Governor Padelford's house, were destroyed. Although the University did offer the houses free to anyone who

would move them, the expense of such an undertaking made it impractical for many, and some of the houses were not of a construction which could be successfully relocated.

THERE ARE certain intrinsic problems in any such ambitious plan for extensive preservation and renewal. On College Hill there are four institutions of higher learning, all of which foresee necessary expansion in the next 20 years. In the path of such expansion stand masterpieces of Colonial, Georgian, Neo-Gothic, and Victorian architecture. In the surrounding blocks are sizable slums and other buildings in disrepair, due to absentee landlords (fostered by a large, transient, renting population).

The preservation of historically valuable properties is important, for houses are essentially documents—they speak of the aesthetics, workmanship, influences, tastes, and pride of their time as eloquently as any writers have ever done. America, however, seems to lack a philosophy which considers its architecture, its history, or its cities as part of a continuity of experience. If we are to have more than a museum city, then continuity must be the cornerstone of any such plan. The College Hill Study proposes that future building be in the modern idiom with deference to what has gone before.

The first proposed undertaking is to establish Benefit Street as a mile-long, historic trail. The Study proposes that much of the existing housing be preserved and improved, in addition to turning Roger Williams Spring, now

A biology major at Pembroke, MARJORIE JONES STENBERG '54 took most of her electives in English. She is a member of the Editorial Board of "Pembroke Alumna". After a year in Belfast where her husband, Carl, now a teacher at Rhode Island College, held a Rotary International Fellowship at Queens University, Marjorie was research assistant to Biology Professor Mac V. Edds, Jr. The Stenbergs have a year-old son, Christopher. Antoinette Downing, wife of Art Professor George E. Downing, supplied much of the information for this article.

their future, but at the same time to allow flexibility of design in building new structures. If a person purchases a house which is under historic zoning, any changes in its external appearance must be approved by the Historic District Commission, even to the use of materials or the destruction of any of the existing parts of the building. Additions must be made in harmony with the style and material of the existing structure. As a last resort and an alternative to destruction, the Commission urges that every effort be made to move historically valuable houses to new locations.

The extent of Providence's heritage is amply demonstrated by the number of houses now included in historic zoning. There are about 53 structures which were built before 1775, 275 between 1775 and 1830, and a much larger number dating between 1830 and 1845.

Some of the houses along Benefit Street have been bought by Mrs. Malcolm Chace of the Preservation Society, who has had the exteriors properly remodeled and then sold the resultant "shell". The buyer installs heating, plumbing, interior wall finish, and is responsible for general redecoration. A few of the older homes on the East Side have been restored on the exterior and been turned into elegant apartments. The Episcopal Church has remodeled several buildings to provide dignified housing for elderly persons. It remains for other individuals, civic groups, private investors, and contractors to continue to help make the College Hill proposals a reality.

**H**OW DOES all this affect Pembroke and Brown? In addition to making an already interesting setting more meaningful, The College Hill Study indicates the consideration which the city shows toward the future needs of the colleges. In turn, the University adds to the scene

with its building, but if that building is done without thought for existing structures, the whole is less perfect. As the Study states, "Twentieth-Century Providence taste has been marked by its conservatism and by a constant loyalty to eighteenth-century traditions and more especially to its own nineteenth-century past. Because of this conservatism, the building of the twentieth-century in Providence is not representative of the general pattern of architectural development to be found elsewhere in America."

Brown has indeed followed this trend until the last two or three years. The new psychology building and the Brown Quadrangles have a Mid-Georgian or Early Republican influence. However, the new Pembroke dormitories, the new computer center, and the proposed Biology center are elegantly functional modern. The Rhode Island School of Design dormitory complex at the foot of College Hill is an excellent example of the use of the modern idiom which still retains the feel of its setting.

**I**N PLANNING for the growth of the schools, there is a need for efforts which will benefit these institutions yet preserve the character of adjacent neighborhoods and the authentic quality of historic architecture. Any moves by the colleges necessarily have a far-reaching impact on the community. The expansion of Pembroke, Brown, RISD, and Bryant should be closely linked with the plans of the city. Since these colleges have a debt to the city which cannot be underestimated, it is in the ultimate interest of all of these institutions to utilize their freedom and their friendship with Providence to a mutual advantage. College Hill historic renewal calls for increased Brown-Pembroke participation and a firm commitment to long range future plans.



Benefit Street restorations include the Gershom Jones House, 1782, later owned by John Howland, founder of the R. I. public school system; James Burr House, 1784; William Snow House, 1794; and the house at 88 Benefit, 1794 to 1798, later owned by Sara Whitman, friend of Edgar A. Poe.

