

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

RECORDS OF

PLAT 10
Lot 560

#132
1895

#72
1891

#132 BOWEN STREET...Wood*

BUILT .. ~~1891~~ 1891 By..STEPHEN O METCALF

1857 PHILLIP ALLEN ET AL GIVE A QUIT CLAIM DEED TO AMOS D SMITH ET AL "A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND ON THE N/E CORNER OF PROSPECT AND BOWEN ST." 148.406

1858 AMOS D SMITH ET AL SELL FOR \$13,535.68 TO GEORGE A HOWARD, FIVE LOTS OF LAND ON THE N/LY SIDE OF BOWEN STREET, BEING LOTS #1,2,3,4,5, ON "PLAT OF LOTS ON PROSPECT HILL", PLAT BOOK #4..PAGE 74...BEING A PORTION OF THE SAME ESTATE ASSIGNED TO SAID GRANTORS BY DEED FROM PHILLIP ALLEN ET AL (DB 148.406) AND THE DOWER RIGHT OF HIS WIFE PHEBE RELEASED BY TWO CERTAIN DEEDS (DB 150.233-234)...DB 150.282

1863 GEORGE A HOWARD SELLS FOR \$13,535.68 TO ASHBEL WALL A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND BOUNDED: W BY PROSPECT STREET 99.03'; S BY BOWEN STREET 215 1/2'; E BY SULLIVAN DORR 98 1/4'; N BY HALSEY AND H AND O V DIKE 232 24/100' BEING THE SAME CONVEYED TO GRANTOR BY AMOS D SMITH ET AL IN 1858..165.127

1863 ASHBEL WALL SELLS FOR \$14,000 TO ASA PIERCE A CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND ON THE N/ELY CORNER OF BOWEN AND PROSPECT STREETS. BOUNDED E BY SULLIVAN DORR 98 1/2'; S BY BOWEN STREET 215 1/2'; W BY PROSPECT ST 99.03'; N BY T L HALSEY, HENRY A AND OSCAR D DIKE 132.74'...SAID LOTS BEING #1,2,3,4,5 ON PLAT LAID OUT AND DELINEATED IN "PLAT OF LOTS OF PROSPECT HILL" IN BOOK OF PLATS #4, PAGE 74 AND IS SAME CONVEYED TO ME BY GEORGE A HOWARD IN 1863,,DB 175.119

~~1868 WILL 30.410..GEORGE A PIERCE..I GIVE TO MY BELOVED WIFE FOR AND DURING THE LIFE OF HERSELF...~~

1885 WILL 30.432..GEORGE A PIERCE..I GIVE AND DEVISE TO MY DAUGHTER ESTHER H PIERCE ALL MY ESTATE BOTH REAL AND PERSONAL.
1891 Stephen O Metcalf at #72 1st x Prov. Dir

1910 THIS PROPERTY WAS TAXED TO ESTHER PIERCE METCALF, WIFE OF STEPHEN O. METCALF. STEPHEN O METCALF LIVED AT 72 BOWEN STREET UP TO 1895 AND THEN WAS LISTED AS LIVING AT 132 BOWEN STREET...PROV DIR.
(number change)

THIS PROPERTY WAS TAXED TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONS IN THE YEAR DESIGNATED.

- 1925 STEPHEN O METCALF FOR LIFE
- 1950 GEORGE P. METCALF, TRUSTEE U/D TRUST
- 1951 GEORGE P METCALF 3/5 AND R I SCHOOL OF DESIGN 2/5
- 1952 R I SCHOOL OF DESIGN

* 1946 Moved from site of Andrews Hall where it was numbered #187 Bowen St. It was built bet. 1848-1854 by John Helme Clarke on Lot #2 of the Halsey Est platted in 1841.
104 Bowen St ↑

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. RI-216

STEPHEN C. METCALF HOUSE

Address: 110 Bowen Street, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island.

Flat 18, Box 560

Present Owner: Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

Present Occupants: Wilbur H. Norton and Samuel F. Hurstey

Present Use: Two-family dwelling

Brief Statement of Significance: This large house, built about 1894, is an example of the Colonial Revival, and was originally the home of a member of a prominent Providence family.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1837 Phillip Allen et al give a quit claim deed to Anne D Smith et al "a certain lot of land on the N/E corner of Prospect and Bowen St." - Deed Book 148, page 406, in Providence City Hall.

1838 Anne D Smith et al sell for \$13,535.68 to George A Howard, five lots of land on the N/W side of Bowen Street, being lots #1,2,3,4,5, on "Flat of Lots on Prospect Hill". - Deed Book #4, page 74 ...being a portion of the same estate assigned to said grantors by deed from Phillip Allen et al. (Deed Book 148, page 406) and the lower right of his wife Phoebe released by two certain deeds (Deed Book 150, page 213-224) - Deed Book 150, page 228, in Providence City Hall.

1863 George A Howard sells for \$13,535.68 to Ashbel Wall a certain lot of land bounded: W by Prospect Street 90.00'; S by Bowen Street 215 1/2'; E by Sullivan Run 98 1/4'; N by Halsey and N and O V Dike 212 24/100' being the same conveyed to grantor by Anne D Smith et al in 1838. - Deed Book 165, page 127 in Providence City Hall.

1863 Ashbel Wall sells for \$14,000 to Ann Pierce a certain tract of land on the N/Ely corner of Bowen

and Prospect Streets. Bounded E by Sullivan Door
98 1/2'; S by Brown Street 215 1/2'; W by Prospect
St 99.03'; N by T L Halsey, Henry A and Oscar D
Hills 132.74'... Said lots being #1,2,3,4,5 on plat
and not delineated in "Plat of Lots of
Prospect Hill" in Book of Plats #4, page 74 and
is now conveyed to me by George A Howard in 1863.
- Deed Book 179, page 119, in Providence City
Hall.

1868 Ann Pierce. "I give to my beloved wife for and
during her life my Massachusetts on 89 High
(Prospect) - Hills Book 22, page 216, in
Providence City Hall.

1885 George A Pierce. "I give and convey to my daughter
Ruth H Pierce all my estate both real and per-
sonal. - Hills Book 30, page 432, in Providence
City Hall.

1910 This property was taxed to Ruth H Pierce Metcalf,
wife of Stephen O Metcalf. Stephen O Metcalf
lived at 72 Brown Street up to 1895 and then was
listed as living at 132 Brown Street. - Providence
Directory.

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

- 1825 Stephen O Metcalf for life
- 1850 George F Metcalf, trustee w/d trust
- 1891 George F Metcalf 2/3 and R I School of Design 2/3
- 1892 R I School of Design

2. Date of execution: c. 1894

3. Architect: Andrews, Jacques and Kentoul of Boston

4. Source of information: John Hutchins Cady, The Civic
and Architectural Development of Providence 1639-1950
(Providence, Rhode Island: The Book Shop, 1977),
pp. 188, 379.

Prepared by Abnerette F. Downing and Elvira Gendry
for the Providence Preservation Society
April 1982

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. **Architectural character:** This large house, built about 1894, is an example of the revival of eighteenth and early nineteenth century architectural forms, with a gambrel roof, clapboard sides and brick ends, and a central hall plan.

2. **Condition of fabric:** Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. **Overall dimensions:** Main block about 50' (south front) x 36', two-and-a-half stories; wing to northeast about 30' x 30', one-and-a-half stories high plus ground level basement at north end.

2. **Foundations:** Stone.

3. **Wall construction:** Brick end walls (Flemish bond course every tenth course), clapboards front and back, average 2" exposure at bottom becoming wider towards the top.

4. **Porches, steps, etc:** One-story main entrance porch, triple slender Doric columns at the front corners, molded cornice and roof balustrade. Burrooded entrance stoop at northeast wing with wooden balustrade.

5. **Chimneys:** Brick chimneys- two in main block, inside on west half, and in east end wall; two in northeast wing, in east and north end walls.

6. **Openings:**

a. **Doorways and doors:** Paneled main entrance door, 53" wide, side lights and top lights with lead mullions, simple molded frame. Three rear doors on main block and north wing.

b. **Windows and shutters:** Large bay windows flank main entrance on first floor. Right over two light double hung windows. Lowered shutters. Large, projecting, three part window supported on four carved consoles at stair landing on north side of house.

7. **Roof:**

a. **Shape, covering:** Gambrel roof, slate.

- b. Cornice: Moulded cornice with Adam brackets.
- c. Dormers: Segmental and gable-roofed dormers on main block with denticulated cornices; shed-roofed dormers on northeast wing.

G. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Main block: Central hall plan, parlor on southeast, dining room on southwest, kitchen on northwest, large stairhall at northeast of main block. Northeast wing, now used as a separate dwelling, not visited.
2. Stairways: Large U-shape stairway to third floor; landings with wide first run, open wall, open string; turned and carved balusters, large, fluted and turned newels; heavy moulded handrail, scrolled and rumped.
3. Flooring: Hardwood strip flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doors and doorways: Double sliding doors from central hall and living room and dining room. Six-panel doors; flat, sunk panels; complex, small scale moldings. Complex architraves with small scale moldings on doorways.
6. Trim: Wood trim, mostly oak, stained dark on first floor and painted on upper floors. Large ceiling cornices on first floor.
7. Hardware: Butt hinges, knobs, silver plating on hardware in principal rooms.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central. Elaborate, carved mantels on fireplaces in living and dining rooms with colonettes, decorated architraves, paneled over-mantels; three elaborate mantels in bedrooms on second floor. Living room mantel stained dark, others painted.

D. Site

1. General setting: Northeast corner of Bowen and Prospect Streets, faces south, house set back from the street on both sides, garden on east.
2. Enclosures: Low brick walls surrounded by open wood fences.
3. Outbuildings: Brick garage at east end of lot for three cars.
4. Walks: Brick, concrete and slate walks.
5. Landscaping: Informal.

Prepared by Oswald R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
April 1962

Providence Preservation Society

Records of

~~132~~ Bowen Street (Metcalf House)
1889-91 Permit to Build

Plat 10
Lot 560

- 1857 Deed Book 148, page 406. Phillip Allen et al gave Quit Claim deed to Amos D. Smith et al "A certain lot of land on the northeast corner of Prospect and Bowen Sts.
- 1858 Amos D. Smith et al sold for \$13,535.68 to George A. Howard five lots of land on the northerly side of Bowen Street, being lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 on Plat of lots on Prospect Hill, Plat Book #4 page 74..... being a portion of the same Estate assigned to said Grantors by Deed from Phillip Allen et al. D.B. 148:406 and the dower right of his wife Phebe, released by two certain deeds. D.B. 150:233-34, and D.B. 150:282
- 1863 George A. Howard sells for \$13,535.68 to Ashbel Wall a certain lot of land bounded west by Prospect Street 99.03'; south by Bowen Street 215 1/2'; east by Sullivan Dorr 98 1/4'; north by Halsey and Henry A. and Oscar D. Dike 232 24/100'; being the same conveyed to grantor by Amos D. Smith et al in 1858. Deed Book 165:127.
- 1863 Deed Book 175:119 Ashbel Wall sells for \$14,000 to Asa Pierce a certain tract of land on the northeasterly corner of Bowen and Prospect Streets. Said lots being the same as conveyed to Ashbel Wall from George A. Howard in 1863.
- 1885 Will # 30:432 George A. Pierce.... "I give and devise to my daughter Esther H. Pierce all my estate both real and personal".
- 1889 November 25. Intentions to Build 2 1/2 story wood and brick building located on the northeast corner of Prospect and Bowen owned by Esther Pierce Metcalf, said building is to be used for one tenement and is built by H. L. Bassett Co. and Ellery Millard. Estimated cost \$20,000. Signed by Esther Pierce Metcalf and Stephen O. Metcalf. At this time Stephen O. Metcalf lived at 7 Keene Street.
- 1891 Street number 72 Bowen owned and occupied by Stephen O. & Esther P. Metcalf.
- 1895 Street number changed to 132 Bowen.
- 1910 Property taxed to Esther Pierce Metcalf, wife of Stephen O. Metcalf.

Property taxed to the following persons:

- 1925 Stephen O. Metcalf for life
- 1950 George P. Metcalf, trustee w/d trust
- 1951 George P. Metcalf, 3/5 and RISD 2/5
- 1952 R.I. School of Design

Prepared by:
Carole B. Pace