

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

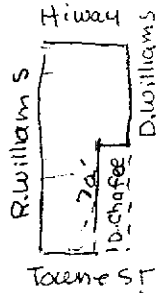
Plat 10
Lot 380

See...
H. Mason's
ALBUM

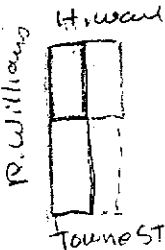
Records of
#39 BOWEN STREET.....Wood

Built 1739^(?) by Jabez Bowen.

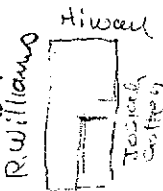
1719 Benjamin Wriqth sells to Joseph Williams, son of Daniel for 300 £ certain lands and meadows, namely my lot of land whereon my dwelling house standeth..estimated at 8 acres. Bounded W by Towne Street; N by heirs of Roger Williams; E by highway whcih goes across at the head of the towne; S by heirs of Daniel Williams until it comes within ~~50~~ 70' of Towne Street and then N/wd with piece of land I have sold to Daniel Chafee. 4.20



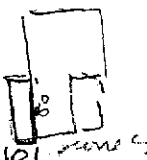
1723 Joseph Williams, son of Daniel, for 80 £ to Jabez Bowen of Rehoboth, doctor of physics, a certain piece of land 80' long and 40' breadth in row of 1st house lots, and is N/W corner of one of them, being the N/W corner of the lot I bought of Benjamin Wright Bounded; W by Towne Street; N on land belonging to my brother Roger ; S on side with remainder of land I bought of said Wright. 5.331



→ 1739 Executors of estate of Joseph Williams sell to Capt. Jabez Bowen about 7 acres of land on E side of Towne Street which Joseph Williams purchased of Benjamin Wright. Bounded on W partly by Towne Street and partly by Jabez Bowen and partly by a small ~~plot~~ taken off at SW corner belonging to heirs of Gabriel Bernon, dec. E by highway that goes across the Neck; N on land of Roger Williams; S by Josiah Cotten...with dwelling house..for 645 £. 10.287

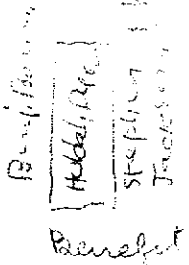


1742 Roger Williams sells for 18 £ to Jabez Bowen, physician, land adjoining on N side of home lot of Jabez Bowen whereon he now dwelleth and is part of the Homestead Lot of my grandfather, Roger Williams. Bounded W by Towne Street 10'; extends 80' E holding breadth and on S side ^{bounded by the} of said Jabez Bowen the whole 80'. 11.101



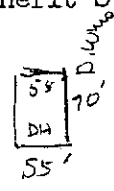
1759 MARRIAGE AGREEMENT. To Hannah Smith, in lieu of her dower and in anticipation of her marriage to Jabez Bowen, the use and occupation of the southermost half of the house on the lot of land where he now lives lying between Main Street on the West and a new street called Benefit on East and is bounded by said streets. Bounded S by heirs of Mawney; N by other moiety of Homestead Lot baing southmost part of his NEW dwelling house lately built by Jabez on said premises.....

1767 WILL devises to wife the dwelling house and land contiguous to it between Main and Benefit streets...except that devised to daughter Abijah Crawford bounded; E on Benefit 50'; S by heirs of Mawney 100'; terminating in adjoining land given to wife. Also devised to daughter Huldah Dyer 1 lot part of homestead lot bounded; N by son Benjamin; S by Stephen Jackson; W on new or Benefit Street; S also partly by John Mawney, W 5.529



Pres. Wright to Dan Chafee

3.158
1718



more →

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Jabez Bowen

Richard Bowen¹ of Rehoboth

Thomas²

Dr. Richard³

1696-1770 Dr. Jabez⁴...m. Hulda Hunt 1718 2nd time Hannah Smithwid. N^o 22 1/2

Children

5Abijah...m John Crawford...dau Ann⁶

m. John Updike

Amie⁵

Benjamin⁵

Jabez⁵

Hulda⁵...m Eliphalet Dyer

Dr. Thomas⁴

Richard Bowen³ buried in Newman Cemetery in East Providence about 1800
N/W of graves of two sons Dr Jabez⁴ and Dr. Thomas Bowen⁴

Benjamin Bowen⁵ is buried in St. John's graveyard.

Thomas Bowen⁴ had son Ephriam⁵

Ephriam⁵ had son Jabez Bowen⁶ d 1815 age 76

During earlier public life Jabez Bowen⁶ was known as Jabez Bowen⁶ jr to distinguish him from his great uncle Dr. Jabez Bowen⁴ (also a Colonel)

Jabez Bowen⁶ was a fellow of Brown University in 1768

Second Chancellor of Brown University in 1785

The Declaration of Independence was read from the balcony of his house on Market Square. Lafayette and George Washington were guests at his house. (He is buried in Swan Point Cemetery.

→ Home of Daniel Abbot
in 1759

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

#39 Bowen Street...continued

1770 CODICIL ...upon reconsidering the matter and judging the whole to be more than is needful...my will is that she have only the south part or new end of said house and that the north end of said house remain to my son Benjamin, giving wife privileges of passing through for her firewood and all water from well... also passing and repassing to and from front door on W side and also baking in oven when she shall have occasion...."

1784 Benjamin Bowen leaves to his natural son Joseph Bowen, ^{by Mary Randall} practitioner in physick, ...^{yes} "all the residue of my estate" ...namely that property west of Benefit Street. (E half left to natural dau. Mary Bowen by ^{Mary Thomas})

* 1794 Huldah Dyer, Jabez Bowen's daughter inherits, and her heirs sell for 660\$ a certain lot of land with dwelling house and barn ~~bounded~~ to Zachariah Allen. 22.582

* 1798 James Fenner lives here. - *Charles in Court - City of Prov - 1798?*
1803 Zachariah Allen devises to his wife Ann Allen by will and set off and assigned by his executors " a dwelling house called the Bowen House and a barn bounded: N by Bowen's Lane; E by land of John Updike; and heirs of Joshua Salisbury; S land of John Mawney, measuring 110' on Bowen's Lane." 27.580

* 1814 *see below*

1838 Philip Allen et al, for \$2,350 sell two lots and dwelling house to Samuel N. Richmond, merchant. Bounded E by Richard Salisbury and Charles Holden; S by Mawney Estate; W by Ann Allen; N by Bowen Street. 70.442

1855 Heirs of Samuel Richmond give a quit claim deed to Thomas Merewether, for \$3,600 the same property conveyed to him by Philip Allen. 140.249

1921 Merewether heirs sell property to Max Pullman
Property changes hands several times...

1954 Property owned by Celia Yuloff being part of estate of Samuel Richmond platted by Cushing and Farnum in 1855...Plat Book #4 page 43...Plat Card #121....Lots #3 and #4.

* 1798 Chace notes: House owned by Zachariah Allen, occ. by James Fenner. House 27' x 39' 2st. Wood
N on Bowen Street
E by Joshua Salisbury Value \$900.
Barn 14' x 18' 1 story - Wood

* Prov. Direct Tax 1814 - Philip's Allen - 3 lots on Bowen St #4, 7, 18. MAP?

GET Ann Allen's will.

President Manning is said by John Howland to have lived in this house when
he first came to Providence... "RI Houses of R I" ... Colonial Dames... R I.
Hist Soc

same time, has been demolished — the only loss in this complex. The plant expanded north and west of the original buildings in a series of hollow squares and eventually covered several blocks. These squares were connected by above-the-street passages; the most striking of these is a 3-story, copper-clad connector over Holden Street. The latest group of buildings — at the northeast corner of the complex and eminently visible from I-95 — are a group of 5- and 6-story buildings with curved-edge piers, granite lintels, and cyclopean granite cornices. These buildings, in particular, have — in the words of Henry-Russell Hitchcock — “a grandiose dignity and almost Richardsonian finish.” The company, founded as David Brown & Son in 1833, became J.R. Brown & Sharpe in 1853 and moved to this site from much smaller quarters on South Main Street in 1872. Organized to make and repair clocks and watches and to do light precision mechanical work, Brown & Sharpe played a major role in industrialization through its development and production of machine tools. These include the automatic linear dividing machine (1850), the precision gear cutter (1855), the universal milling machine (1861), and the universal grinding machine (1876). The range of functions performed by the milling and grinding machines made the name of Brown & Sharpe familiar in workrooms and toolrooms of the world. The standard for precision that the firm established was critical to the development of the automobile and aviation industries and to the emergence of the United States as the leader in manufacturing. In addition to Joseph R. Brown, the company profited from associations with Frederick W. Howe, who helped in the development of the milling machine, and Henry M. Leland, founder of both Cadillac and Lincoln automobile companies. The company moved its operations to North Kingstown in 1964; this complex is now used by several state agencies and private businesses.

- 405 Congdon & Carpenter (1930):** Jenks & Ballou, consulting engineers; C.E. McGuire, contractor. This building's format is typical of many mid- and late 20th-century industrial buildings: a relatively small office “frontispiece” with a large, 1-story, high-ceiling, steel-frame, shed warehouse/production area behind. This office, however, is of unusual design quality: the reinforced-concrete structure with sash windows has stripped-classical Art Deco detailing. Founded in 1792, Congdon & Carpenter housed its metal-supply business in two locations on Canal Street (see 3 Steeple Street) before moving to this location. The Congdon family retained control of this steel- and aluminum-products company until 1977.

PROSPECT STREET

- *10 John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library (1926-64):** Warner, Burns, Toan & Lund, architects. A 7-story structure (with 3 levels below grade) of pre-cast concrete finished with granite, aggregate, and plate glass. The 1st story, reached by broad steps and platform across the steeply declining hill, is cantilevered out beyond the level below it; with far more glass than the upper stories, the basement

(known as A Level) and the 1st and 2nd stories give the building a strange, floating quality. Named after a distinguished alumnus (class of 1897) and generous benefactor of the university, this modern building shares similarities with other contemporary government structures in the same abstract, formal mode, including the United States embassies in New Delhi, London, Athens, and Accra, Ghana.

- *36 John Hay Library (1910):** Shepley, Ruten & Coolidge, architects. A pristine, white-marble-clad, 2-story structure in the English Renaissance style, 7 bays wide and 6 bays deep, set on a high podium with balustraded, smooth rusticated retaining walls. The facade is defined by Ionic pilasters, doubled at the corners and on either side of the slightly projecting center entrance pavilion. On the interior, the 2-story principal reading room, occupying the south side of the building, is also within the English Renaissance mode. The selection of the English Renaissance as a source for this building is particularly apt; it specifically alludes to stylish English architecture of the late 17th and early 18th centuries and complements the provincial/vernacular English Renaissance architecture of University Hall, in the original (q.v.), or Caswell Hall (1902; Hoppin & Ely, architects), in the revival mode. These two strains of revivalism defined Brown's campus development in the early 20th century. By the turn of the century, Brown needed yet a larger library to replace the one built in the late 1870s (see 64 Waterman Street), and this new structure was built on the site of the President's House (ca. 1770). The new library was named for a distinguished alumnus (1838-1905, class of 1858), scholar, writer, President Lincoln's private secretary, and secretary of state under Presidents McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. Now the rare-book and archival repository for the university, the John Hay underwent a sensitive renovation in 1981. Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott, successors to the firm which originally designed the building, oversaw the renovations.

- *45 George Corliss House, now the Admissions Office, Brown University (1878):** An imposing, brick Italianate villa 3 stories high with a large, 4-story corner tower; low hip roof with balustrade and dentil-and-modillion cornice; and balustraded Tuscan portico set into the recessed central section of the facade. The house is dramatically sited on a high granite terrace at the intersection of Prospect and Angell Streets; facing west, it overlooks downtown at the foot of College Hill. Corliss (1817-88), inventor of the world-renowned Corliss stationary steam engine, revolutionized industry with engines capable of running for long periods of time, and the Corliss engine powered mills and factories across the country, including the machinery at the Centennial Exhibition in 1876. Corliss also designed and engineered this house, equipped with radiant heat thermostatically controlled, hydraulic elevator, and concealed, sliding, insect screens for the windows. Brown University renovated the building in 1973 for use as its admissions office.

- *59 George Nightingale House (ca. 1854):** An asymmetrical, stuccoed, 2½-story Italianate villa with a cross-gable roof, modillion cornice, and square, 3-story, hip-roof corner tower on the southeast. A 2½-story, gable-roof pavilion is set perpendicular to the main block on the northwest. Fenestration includes paired, triple, and bay windows. The entrance is in an Ionic porch on the south side between the main block and the tower. The exterior stucco is not original. Nightingale was a textile merchant, allied in business with Sullivan Dorr (see 109 Benefit Street) and Crawford Allen.

- *62 Woods-Gerry House (1860-63):** Richard Upjohn, architect. A handsome and sophisticated 3-story, brick Italianate house with a low-hip roof, wide eaves, and a bracket cornice. This is an understated, almost-square townhouse with segmental-arch French windows, a 3-story curved bay centered on the street front, a porte-cochere on the south, and a Renaissance-inspired triple-arcaded loggia almost the full width of the western garden-front facade. Dr. Marshall Woods (1824-99), a physician by training, married into the Brown family, taking as his wife Anne Brown Francis, daughter of Governor John Brown Francis; he devoted much of his life to the service of Brown University, his alma mater, as a member of the corporation (1855-99), and as treasurer (1866-82). His son, John Carter Brown Woods, occupied the house after 1899. In 1931, it became the home of Peter Goellet Gerry (1879-1957), great-grandson of Elbridge Gerry and U.S. representative and U.S. senator (1917-29, 1935-47) from Rhode Island. After Gerry's death, the house long remained vacant. It was purchased by the Rhode Island School of Design, which planned to demolish the building but was prevented from doing so by the Providence Historic District Commission. Later, R.I.S.D. faculty and students convinced the administration to restore the building, and today it houses the administrative offices of the School of Design as well as galleries for faculty and student exhibitions.

- *65 Mumford-Lovecraft House (ca. 1825):** A characteristic and well-preserved Providence late Federal style dwelling, this is a 2½-story, monitor-on-hip-roof structure with a 1½-story rear ell, 3-bay facade, and blind elliptical-fan entrance with Gothick colonnettes. The house was built by commercial merchant Samuel Mumford and stood at 66 College Street until moved to this site in 1959. In the early 20th century, the Mumford House belonged to an aunt of the renowned writer of Gothic horror stories, Howard Phillips Lovecraft, and Lovecraft lived and worked here for several years.

- *71 First Church of Christ Scientist (1906-13):** Hoppin & Field, architects. A large, square, buff brick building with a pedimented cross-gable roof and a large, copper-clad dome atop a high, arcaded drum. The entrance is set in a colossal Ionic tetrastyle portico on the facade. Based on 16th-century Italian ecclesiastical architecture, it is stylistically related to The Mother Church at Massachusetts and Huntington Avenues in Boston.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JABES BOWEN HOUSE

HABS No. RI-173

Address: 39 Bowen Street, Providence, Providence County,
Rhode Island

Present Owner: Mr. and Mrs. George E. Wilson, 312 Benefit Street,
Providence 3, Rhode Island.

Present Occupant: Various Renters.

Present Use: Apartment house.

**Brief Statement
of Significance:** This is a two-story, frame house, built before
1759, and one of the few surviving examples from
that early period. Jabes Bowen was a physician
for whom Bowen Street is named.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1739 Executors of the estate of Joseph Williams sell to Captain Jabes Bowen about 7 acres of land on the E side of Towne Street which Joseph Williams purchased of Benjamin Wright in 1719. Bounded W partly by Towne Street and partly by Jabes Bowen and partly by a small lot taken off at SW corner belonging to heirs of Gabriel Barnum, dec. E by highway that goes across the Neck; N on land of Roger Williams S by Josiah Cotton. .with Swalling House (now gone) for 645 E. . . Deed Book 10, page A287, in Providence City Hall.
- 1742 Roger Williams sells for 18 E to Jabes Bowen, physician, land adjoining on the N side of home lot of Jabes Bowen whereon he now dwalleth and is part of the Homestead Lot of my grandfather, Roger Williams. Bounded W by Towne Street 10'; extends 80' E holding breadth and bounded on S side by the Jabes Bowen the whole 80'. . . Deed Book 11, page 101, in Providence City Hall.
- 1759 MARRIAGE AGREEMENT "To Hannah Smith, in lieu of her dower and in anticipation of her marriage to Jabes Bowen, the use and occupation of the southernmost half of the house on the lot of land where he now lives lying between Main Street on the W and a new street called Benefit on the E and is

bounded by said streets: S by heirs of Mawney; N by other moiety of Homestead lot being the southwest part of his NEW DWELLING HOUSE lately built by James Bowen on said premises"

- 1767 WILL James Bowen. .devises to wife the Dwelling House and land contiguous to it between Main and Benefit Streets. Bounded E by Benefit St 50'; S by heirs of Mawney 100'; terminating in adjoining land given to wife . . . Wills Book 5, page 529, in Providence City Hall.
- 1794 Haddah Dyer, James Bowen's daughter inherits, and her heirs sell for 640 E a certain lot of land with Dwelling House called the Bowen House and Barn to Zachariah Allen . . . Deed Book 22, page 582, in Providence City Hall.
- 1798 Henry R. Jones, Owners and Occupants of the Lots, Houses and Sheds in the Town of Providence Rhode Island in 1798 Located on Maps of the Highways of that State (Providence, 1914): House owned by Zachariah Allen, occupied by James Fenner, House 27' x 39' . . . 2 stories. . wood. N on Bowen Street; E by Joshua Salisbury. Barn 14'x18' . . 1 story . . wood. Value \$900 (From US Tax List of 1798).
- 1803 Zachariah Allen devises to his wife Ann Allen by will and the above property called the Bowen House was set off and assigned by his executors to her . . . Deed Book 27, page 280, in Providence City Hall.
- 1838 Philip Allen et al, for \$2,350 sell two lots and Dwelling House to Samuel N Richmond, merchant. Bounded: E by Richard Salisbury and Charles Holden; S by Mawney Estate; W by Ann Allen; N by Bowen St. . . . Deed Book 70, page 442, in Providence City Hall.
- 1855 Heirs of Samuel Richmond give quit claim deed to Thomas Marwether for \$3600, the same property conveyed to him by Philip Allen . . . Deed Book 140, page 249, in Providence City Hall.

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

- 1900 Thomas Marwether Estate
1921 Max Pullman
1921 Trston M and Eli Mooradian
1923 David Perlman & Samuel Goldstein

1927 Samuel Goldstein
1930 Samuel Goldstein
1933 Samuel Goldstein Estate
1954 Celia Tuloff
1958 George Wilson and wife Margaret

2. Date of erection: Shortly before 1759
3. Notes on alterations and additions: The house was renovated and partially restored by the present owners in 1958. The interior was made over into five apartments, but keeping the original division of the rooms, the asphalt sheathing on the exterior was removed exposing the clapboarding, and the present nine over nine light windows were installed.
4. Sources of information: Antoinette Forrester Downing, Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia: Garrett and Massie, 1937), pp. 139, 205.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowday
for the Providence Preservation Society
December 1961.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is a two-story, frame house, built shortly before 1759, and one of the few surviving examples from that early period. It preserves typical details including the Doric frontispiece, closed string stairway, and simple interior wood trim.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Five bays, two stories, 27' x 39', plus small wing at rear. Narrow end to the street on the north, with main entrance on west side.
2. Foundations: Brick in front, fieldstone in rear.
3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame, plank walls, clapboards average 3-1/2" exposure at bottom becoming wider toward the top.
4. Steps: Ten wood steps to front entrance.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys, one in rear (south) end wall, other inside the opposite end (north) wall.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorway: Six-panel main door with top two panels lighted. Doric frontispiece, fluted pilasters, pediment, molded cornice.
- b. Windows: Nine over nine light double hung windows, 5-1/2" x 7-1/2" lights installed 1958. Unrelieved frames with large molded cornices. Second floor cornices are continuous with eave bed mold. No shutters.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, shingles.
- b. Cornice: Heavy, molded cornice.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Originally a single family house with entrance on side, central hall, four-room plan. Small wing on south end later. Recently made into five apartments but keeping original division of rooms - two apartments on second floor, two on first, one in basement. First floor south apartment only examined.
2. Stairways: Open wall main stair in center hall, straight run with winders at the top, closed string with molded face on outside string, heavy molded handrail, turned balusters and newels.
3. Flooring: Wide, board flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, papered.
5. Doors and doorways: Panel doors - some two-panel, some four-panel. Simple molded architraves.
6. Trim: None except for beaded timber frame exposed on interior, and door and window frames. Double molded architraves on windows.
7. Hardware: Interior, original case locks covered with paint but seem to be of brass. Brass knobs.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central heat. Diagonal fireplaces in corners of rooms at north end of house. Two fireplaces off each chimney. One-story wood mantels, molded frames around openings, paneled entablatures, mantel shelves on multiple moldings.

D. Site: House at sidewalk line on north front, narrow lot sloping down to the west putting cellar at ground level on west side, small yard on west and south sides, driveway on east side to garage at southeast corner of lot, residential neighborhood.

Prepared by Osmond R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
December 1961