

NUMBER ONE HUNDRED ONE and
ONE HUNDRED THREE CONGDON STREET

Owners: Mr. and Mrs. Colin MacR. Makepeace
101 occupied by owners
103 occupied by Miss Grace W. Redding

Flower Arrangements: Rehoboth Garden Club

The house at 101-103 Congdon Street stands on Lot number 5 of the Benevolent Congregational Society plat of 1828. In 1849 the Society sold the lot to Samuel Lincoln, and in the same year Lincoln sold the property to James E. Budlong, who, according to the *Providence Directory* of 1850-1853, was living in the house at that time. Elisha Aldrich bought the property in 1872 and it remained in the Aldrich family until 1904. In 1927 it was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Makepeace.

Miss Amey Aldrich, who grew up in the building, has written a delightful reminiscence of life in the house, and her childhood on Congdon Street. "Our house," she said, "had a steady stream of visitors interested in the anti-slavery movement, the suffrage movement, and other then-unpopular great causes. We were waked up one night and taken down-stairs in our flannel night gowns to sit in the lap of the distinguished negro, Frederic Douglas, so we should always remember him. Julia Ward Howe used to stay with us and sleep in the 'blue room' . . . Thomas Wentworth Higginson came, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, when they were speaking in Providence. There arrived once a Swedish feminist named Selma Borg, the first woman I ever saw with short hair like a man's, a sensation in those days. She also smoked cigars, perhaps a sensation even now."

The house is set end to the street, and follows the Greek Revival formula, but its late date is shown by high studding, the cornice with Victorian brackets, and the columns of the entrance portico which have Egyptianized lotus capitals, inspired by Napoleon's Egyptian campaign. The side lights in the doorway are of Bohemian style red glass, etched with bunches of grapes. Originally a single house, the plan with stairway at one side, dining room behind the stairs, and double parlors running from front to back, is typical, although the arch has been widened. The black marble mantel pieces in the north (Miss Redding's) part of the house are original. Those in the south part came from a row of brick houses torn down to make way for the new Court House. The portraits and much of the furniture in 101 have come down in the family.

Builder Arthur Clarke