

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Providence	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Arnold-Palmer House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Arnold (Daniel) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
33 Chestnut Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION:

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY:

OWNER'S NAME:
Beneficent Congregational Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 Weybosset Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE:
44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance and Washington Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE:
44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arnold-Palmer house, a handsome brick single residence of the Federal period, was built about 1826 by Daniel Arnold, a wealthy Providence merchant. The house has been stylistically attributed to John Holden Greene, Providence architect, who designed St. John's Cathedral, the First Unitarian Church, the important Sullivan Dorr house and a number of other dwellings. On its original location at 577 Westminster Street, the Arnold-Palmer house completed a series of four similar houses, all of which Norman M. Isham attributed to Greene. This is the only house of that group still extant.

The brick house, with its cubical mass, its five-bay width, its hip roof with monitor, and its four tall exterior chimneys symmetrically placed, is very close in appearance to the Truman Beckwith house which Greene is known to have designed (in the College Hill Historic District) about 1825. The walls are of pressed brick with thin bands of darkened mortar and rest on a rebuilt granite foundation. They are pierced by six-over-six double-hung sash windows with plain brownstone lintels and sills; the original exterior shutters are missing. Like the Beckwith house and other local residences by Greene, the structure is capped by a hip roof with monitor. The wide, elegant main cornice is embellished by a series of balls strung on a straight rod, and it is visually joined to the wall by carved wooden guttae directly applied to the brick surface. Such a design for the main cornice shows an innovative use of Asher Benjamin's publications by the architect. The original balustrades crowning the roof and monitor, which are now missing, were composed of simple wooden panels inserted above plain surfaces between rows of turned balusters above wall openings.

The primary decorative feature of the exterior is the central front entrance, treated as a unit with the central window on the second floor. The heavy, six-panel door, with a semi-elliptical fanlight and sidelights, is encased by a banded, Gothic-colonnette jamb moulding which is carried over the fanlight, another characteristic of Greene's work of the period. The entrance is sheltered by a one-story shallow portico supported on slender, unfluted double columns with Ionic capitals; it is capped by a low balustrade. A wrought iron railing runs around the granite base and down stairs at either side. The central second-story window above had been extensively remodelled and was replaced in 1968 by a window salvaged from Greene's Easton house in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, a house very similar in date, scale, and style. It is tripartite and generally of Palladian inspiration, but a semi-elliptical, leaded fanlight spans the entire width. As in the Beckwith house, the design of this window virtually repeats that of the entrance below.

Considering the multiple uses through which the house has been put as its neighborhood became commercialized and deteriorated, the interior is in a remarkably fine state of preservation. As in other John Holden Greene houses, this interior is characterized by a broad simplicity of

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description.

detail, the chief architectural feature a beautiful, delicately ornamented, curving staircase. The staircase rises along one side of the central hallway, sharply curving at the top into the second-story hall. The attenuated square baluster sticks support a slender moulded handrail which winds into the newel at the base of the stairs. The riser end of the stairs are decorated with intricate Adam fan details, similar to those in Greene's Sullivan Dorr house on Benefit Street.

The four principal rooms on the first story retain their original dimensions. While the exterior fireplaces in the rear rooms remain closed, those in the front rooms were opened in 1968 and decorated with mantels from the Easton house. The rather high mantel shelves are supported on simple Doric columns; block panels decorate the frieze. They are correct in style and scale for this house and must closely resemble the originals. Other interior detailing is sparse, except for the floor-length panelling of the splayed window reveals which still contain the original interior shutters. The fine plaster cornices of these rooms are still intact.

Original detail remains on the second story, although these rooms have been partitioned and somewhat remodelled to accommodate offices. A third fireplace from the Easton house has been installed on this floor and is similar in design to those of the first story; this one is executed in beautiful white and dark gray marble. Several magnificent Victorian gilt chandeliers now hang in these rooms. The third story has been remodelled as an apartment, and the new foundation allows for rest-rooms and a large finished hall in the basement.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1826

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Arnold-Palmer house is an excellent example of late Federal architecture of the highest quality; it has been well preserved and partially restored. The fanlighted entrance, with portico, and the curving interior staircase are superb features. Details--such as the elaborate exterior cornice, the carved riser ends of the main staircase, and the fine mantels that were salvaged from another of John Holden Greene's works--are of high quality and display that architect's skill. The structure is marked by outstanding builders' workmanship throughout.

This house has, today, great significance in the Weybosset Hill area of downtown Providence. In the early 19th century Weybosset Hill was the most important commercial and residential section of Providence, and the Arnold-Palmer house was typical of the fine homes being erected there. Gradual commercialization and near-slum conditions, and more recent urban renewal have destroyed this historic area. Slated for demolition, the house was purchased by Beneficent Congregational Church and moved down the hill onto church property in 1967, with the aid of a U. S. Housing and Urban Development grant. The Arnold-Palmer house thus remains a sole example of the Weybosset area's residential architecture in its finest period. In its present location it helps to maintain the integrity of Beneficent Congregational Church, an historically and architecturally significant structure in its own right, and its immediate surroundings--which, fortunately, that church owns also.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				C R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds			
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	41°	49'	09" N	71°	24'	52" W
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Clifford M. Renshaw, III, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: April 3, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02903

CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____



Removed by WMMW
for Downtown Report
29. X. 80.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior in new location, upon new foundation.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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CODE

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COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, Providence, Rhode Island, 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of front staircase.



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Clifford M. Renshaw, III

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Mantel on second floor, brought from the Easton house in Pawtucket,
designed by John Holden Greene.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 49' 09" N
 Longitude: 71° 24' 52" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:
U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1: 24,000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.