

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Allin, General Thomas, House

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**Street & number: 20 Lincoln AvenueCity or town: Barrington State: RI County: Bristol

Not For Publication: \_\_\_\_\_ Vicinity: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

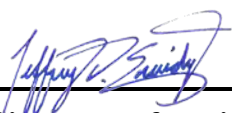
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_\_\_ D

24 December 2024

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL: Georgian, Federal

MID-19th CENTURY

LATE VICTORIAN

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: clapboard, weatherboard, shingle;

STONE: granite; BRICK; ASPHALT

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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#### Summary Paragraph

The General Thomas Allin House, built between 1769 and 1774 and expanded in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, is one of only ten surviving pre-Revolutionary War houses in Barrington, Rhode Island. A well-preserved late Georgian/early Federal-style dwelling, the 2½-story, timber frame, south-facing main block has a center-chimney plan, a flank-gable roof, and a nearly symmetrical five-bay façade with a pedimented center entry. A 2-story, balloon-frame ell was built off its west elevation in 1857, and small, 1-story additions were constructed to the north and east in the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Walls are sheathed in wood clapboards on the façade and cedar shingle siding on the secondary elevations, with simple wood trim, and window openings are filled primarily with wood, 6-over-6, double hung sash. The ca. 1769-1774 main block of the Allin House largely retains its historic floor plan and exhibits many Georgian- and Federal-style features and finishes, including cased framing posts, wide-plank floors, and a winding front stairway set against the chimney mass, with period railings and newel posts. There are five fireplaces, four late-18<sup>th</sup> century fireplace surrounds, two bake ovens and a smoking chamber in the chimney stack. The property also includes a stone-lined well (19<sup>th</sup> century, mid-20<sup>th</sup> century) and two non-contributing resources: a 1-story wood-framed three-car garage (1965) and an in-ground swimming pool (ca. 1995).



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The Allin House was originally part of an over 300-acre farm; today it occupies a 0.96-acre lot in a residential suburban neighborhood. Despite the loss of its rural setting, the Allin House retains a high level of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

The Town of Barrington is a suburban coastal community located on the east side of upper Narragansett Bay, seven miles southeast of Providence. Barrington's approximately 15.4 square miles occupy two peninsulas extending southward, with the Barrington River between them. The town is bounded by the Town of Swansea, Massachusetts on the northeast; by the Palmer and Warren Rivers on the east; by the Town of Warren, Rhode Island on the east and southeast; by Narragansett Bay on the south; and by the Providence River and the City of East Providence, Rhode Island on the west and northwest.

The principal vehicular route through Barrington is R.I. Route 114, which follows County Road as it winds along the Barrington River's western shoreline before passing through the town center. About a mile north of the town center, Lincoln Avenue extends westward from County Road about 1.25 miles, crossing Middle Highway to end at Washington Road (*Map 1*).

The tree-lined Lincoln Avenue illustrates the suburban residential character of the neighborhood surrounding the Allin House, with houses dating from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present and reflecting a variety of architectural styles including Greek Revival, Italianate, Late Victorian, Colonial Revival, English Cottage, Cape Cod, and Split Level, situated on lots ranging from 7,000 to 40,000 sq.ft. or more. The Alfred Drowne Road Historic District (NR, 2005) lies just south/southwest of the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Washington Street.

The Allin House sits on the north side of Lincoln Avenue, set back from the street approximately 95 feet. The property rises in a gentle slope from south to north and is partially bounded on the north and west with wood stockade fencing. The house is surrounded by broad areas of lawn dotted with mature trees and shrubs. A flagstone walkway provides access from the Lincoln Avenue sidewalk to the principal entry, and an asphalt driveway to the west of the house leads to two parking areas and the garage. Mortared ashlar stone retaining walls, approximately two feet tall, outline planting beds on the west side of the main block and the north side of the west ell; similar retaining walls, topped with wood fencing about four feet tall, extend between the north addition and the garage. Just east of the garage, two ashlar stone steps lead up to a wooden gate for access to the back yard, and a cobblestone walkway leads from those steps to the swimming pool behind the garage. A brick patio lies north of the house, adjacent to the north addition.

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**General Thomas Allin House (ca. 1769-1774, ca. 1802, 1857, ca. 1895-1921, ca. 1922-1951, 2010)**

**One contributing building**

The General Thomas Allin House includes the 2½-story main block, built ca. 1769-1774, and four additions: a 2-story west ell, built 1857; two small, overlapping 1-story north (rear) additions, built ca. 1895-1921; and a small 1-story east addition, built ca. 1922-1951. The house also reflects several phases of alterations conducted between ca. 1802, when it was subdivided into two separately owned dwelling units, and 1951-52, when it was returned to single-family use; all 19<sup>th</sup> and early-to-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations occurred within the Period of Significance for Criterion C: Architecture (ca. 1769-ca. 1952). To simplify the architectural description of the house, it will be presented by section, beginning with the main block, followed by the west ell and the other, smaller additions. The exterior is described first, followed by the interior.

**Exterior**

***Main Block (ca. 1769-1774 et seq.) (Photos 1-6)***

The 2½-story main block measures 40 feet wide by 32 feet deep. Its flank-gable asphalt-shingled roof has a center brick chimney straddling the ridge, measuring about 5 feet square above the roofline and topped with a full-dimension bluestone cap.<sup>1</sup> The timber frame consists of hewn white oak posts and girts about seven inches square, with vertical-plank walls; these one-inch-thick oak planks average eighteen inches in width. Exterior siding is modern wood clapboard (south facade) and cedar shingles (other elevations), trimmed with plain wood cornice, corner boards, and window surrounds. The mortared fieldstone foundation rises about two feet above grade.

Windows throughout the main block are primarily 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash with true divided lights and 8" x 12" glass panes; unless otherwise specified, the sashes are ca. 1951 replacements representing a typical Federal-style window configuration, set within restored window trim and protected behind modern aluminum storm windows. Inset within the foundation are three cellar windows, two on the south façade and one on the east side elevation: all are wood three-light fixed sash (replaced in about 2010).

The Georgian-style five-bay south façade (*Photos 1, 2, 6*) has vertically aligned fenestration; the horizontal spacing of the windows is subtly uneven (the two bays to the left of the front door are set at a slightly wider distance from each other but closer to the doorway, than the two bays to the right), but the façade still gives an overall impression of symmetry. The principal entry, accessed by two large granite steps, has a wood six-panel Colonial Revival-style door (a late 20th-century replacement in kind) topped with a five-light transom, and a Georgian surround

<sup>1</sup> Historic photos (*Figures 2, 3, and 4*) show that the chimney stack was reduced somewhat in height sometime between 1898 and the 1920s, then restored back to its 1898 height in 1951-52, with a mix of historic brick (repointed) and replacement brick. The bluestone cap was added sometime after 1993.

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consisting of a triangular pediment (restored 1951, based upon a ca. 1898 historic photo, *Figure 2*) and Doric-capped fluted pilasters set on plinth blocks (those blocks were replaced in kind in 2013). Five second-story windows are situated just below the cornice.

The main block's west elevation is partly covered by the west ell, but some of its fenestration is visible (*Photo 3*). On the first-floor level, a late-Victorian, 2-over-2, wood double-hung window directly abuts the west ell; to the left of that window is a secondary entrance (labeled "rear entry" on *Plan 1*) featuring a Colonial Revival-style paneled wood door with wood and glass storm door, surrounded by plain wood trim with a molded drip cap, and accessed by a wooden stairway. At the second-floor level are two window openings: a small one above the doorway has a 19th-century, 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash; while the other opening is of standard size with a 6-over-6 wood sash that is partially covered by the massing of the west ell. At the attic level is one window opening with late-19th-century, 6-over-6 sash operating in the original plank frame, and a small louvered vent above.

On the north (rear) elevation of the main block (*Photos 4, 5*), the original first floor fenestration has been modified, probably in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (*see historic photo from the 1920s-1930s, Figure 3A*). The easternmost window opening, which still has a 19th-century 6-over-6 wood sash, was shifted a few inches eastward; the next two bays of original windows were eliminated and a horizontal window opening (present in 1952; *Figure 4*) was installed in the third bay, now containing a modern wood sliding sash; and the westernmost two bays were eliminated when the north additions were built ca. 1895-1921. The second-floor level, by contrast, retains its historic 5-bay pattern and contains the earliest window sashes in the house: wood, through-tenoned and pegged, Federal-style 6-over-6 sashes with 8" x 12" glass lights. Four of these window openings retain their original molded caps, which are integrated with the cornice; the center window does not have a molded cap, but its surround is likewise integrated with the cornice.

The east elevation of the main block (*Photo 5*) has four wood 6-over-6 double hung sash windows: one in the southernmost bay of the first floor (probably replaced in 1951); two on the second floor (19<sup>th</sup> century sash), and one centered at the attic level (a late 20<sup>th</sup> century replacement).

### ***West Ell (1857 et seq.) (Photos 1-4)***

The 2-story, balloon-framed west ell, roughly 20 feet square, has an asphalt-shingled, flank gable roof with the ridge running east-west; a brick interior chimney penetrating the ridge near the west gable end; wood clapboards on its south façade and cedar shingles on its west and north elevations (matching the exterior materials on the main block); simple wood trim; and a raised, parged stone foundation. The roofline, which was raised from its original 1½-story height sometime between 1908 and 1951 (*Figures 2 and 3; Map 9*) is slightly lower than that of the main block and has a variable pitch on the north slope.

The south façade of the west ell (*Photos 1-2*) is flush with that of the main house, separated by a nominal corner board that was added in 2010 (the original southwest corner board on the main

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block had previously been removed, date unknown). This façade is two bays wide, with window openings slightly lower than those on the main block, and features 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash on the first and second floors. The plain window trim, corner boards, and cornice match those features on the main block. The second-floor windows, situated directly beneath the cornice, were enlarged in height when the roof was raised (*Figures 2 and 3; Photo 1*). Set into the foundation at the basement level are two wood three-light fixed window sashes, one on the south elevation and one on the north; these match the cellar windows in the main block and were likewise replaced about 2010.

The west elevation of the west ell (*Photo 3*) has an irregular fenestration pattern. On the first floor is a secondary entrance consisting of a Colonial Revival-style wood door set within a simple wood surround, accessed via a set of wood stairs; the door is flanked by two small square windows, one with 3-over-3 wood sash and the other a fixed two-light wood sash. On the second floor is one full-size window with 6-over-6 wood sash, and one small square 3-over-3 wood sash. A small louvered vent is in the gable peak. A ca. 1930s historic photo indicates that there was once a 1-story, shed-roofed enclosed entryway in the approximate location of the present doorway, and two of the small square windows, one on the first floor and one on the second, were also visible (*Figure 3*).

The north (rear) elevation of the west ell (*Photos 3, 4*) has five window openings: two each on the first and second floors, filled with 6-over-6 wood sash and aligned with each other horizontally and vertically; and one small square 3-over-3 wood window at the second-floor level that is located lower on the wall due to the difference in the roof pitch. All second-floor windows are situated directly below the plain cornice.

#### ***North Additions (ca. 1895-1921 et seq.) (Photos 3, 4, 5)***

Two small north additions appear on the 1921 Sanborn map (*Map 9*) at the rear northwest corner of the main block. The earlier of the two (*Photo 3*) appears to have been constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as a small, shallow 1-story shed-roofed projection standing on a foundation of parged stone.<sup>2</sup> It has one wood 6-over-6 double hung window in its north elevation and a flat modern flat skylight in its roof slope. Much of this structure (labeled “alcove” and “lavatory” on *Plan 1*) was covered by the second north addition.

The second north addition is one story tall and approximately 15 feet square, with an asphalt-shingled gable roof, wood shingle siding, simple wood trim, and a parged stone foundation. On its west elevation, immediately beneath the cornice, is a large wood multi-pane fixed sash window with decorative muntin pattern characteristic of the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The north elevation features a large triple window with modern wood 1-over-1 replacement double-hung sash (date unknown), above which is a small, fixed 3-light wood sash in which the glass panes are arranged in a segmental-arch configuration, also characteristic of the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early

<sup>2</sup> When the flooring inside this projection was replaced in 2010, the floor joists appeared to be of late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction.

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20<sup>th</sup> century. The east elevation has a modern wood-framed glass sliding door and a large window opening (matching the height and one-third the width of the adjacent triple window), with modern wood 1-over-1 sash (dates unknown but post 1930s; see *Figure 3A*). A modern flat skylight pierces the east roof slope.

***East Addition (ca. 1922-1951) and Cellar Entry (mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century) (Photo 5)***

A small, shallow 1-story bump-out, approximately 9 feet long by 5 feet deep, extends from the northern bay of the east elevation (identified as “China Closet” on *Plan 1*). This addition does not appear on the 1921 Sanborn map or in a historic photo from the 1920s-1930s (*Figure 3A*), but is shown in a 1952 historic photo (*Map 9, Figure 4*). It has an asphalt-shingled hipped roof; wood clapboard siding on its east and south elevations; wood shingles on the small exposed area adjacent to its northeast corner; and simple wood trim. It has paired, 2-over-2 wood windows on its east elevation and one 6-over-6 wood window in its south elevation (19th-century, probably relocated from the east elevation of the main block when this addition was built). This addition rests on a poured concrete foundation.

Abutting the north side of the east addition is a 1-story, shed-roofed, enclosed entryway with paired vertical-plank doors opening to a set of large stone steps (original, or 19<sup>th</sup>-century) leading down to the cellar (*Photo 14*). A 1952 historic photo (*Figure 4*) depicted part of a bulkhead over the cellar stairs, so this larger enclosure was built after the end of the Period of Significance (date unknown), but it represents a minor and reversible alteration.

**Interior**

***Cellars Beneath the Main Block (ca. 1769-1774 et seq) (Photos 11-14) and West Ell (1857 et seq)***

Both the main block and the west ell have a full cellar, connected to each other via a rough-cut door opening in the west wall of the main block cellar.

Beneath the main block, the cellar has mortared fieldstone walls and a modern (post-1951) poured concrete floor; the ceiling joists are an unusually high 7 feet 2 inches above the floor. On the east, south, and west sides of the cellar, several shallow window openings with three-light fixed wood sashes are cut into the stonework at the top of the walls. Several small square niches (ranging in size from 12 to 14 inches tall by 16 to 20 inches wide), some situated beneath windows, are also cut into the cellar walls; these unusual niches appear to be original, but their purpose is unknown (*example, Photo 13*).

The massive base of the central chimney, constructed of mortared fieldstone and measuring about 12 feet square, dominates this space (*Photo 11*). On both the east and west sides, the chimney mass is pierced by a rectangular void, measuring about 5 feet tall, 4 feet wide and 8 feet deep. An additional shallow opening, about 5 feet tall, 3 feet wide and 18 inches deep, on the east side of the chimney mass embeds a pine shelf that may be original. All three of these

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voids appear to have been part of the original construction of the chimney, but their purpose is unknown (*example, Photo 12*).<sup>3</sup> The chimney base has been parged, obscuring the details of its construction, but several pieces of wood (purpose unknown) are embedded on its west side, and on its south side, massive oak timbers embedded in the masonry support the first-floor chimney girts and central posts.

The original cellar stairs, on the south side of the chimney beneath the front stairs, were removed at an unknown date. The current wood cellar stairs, situated beneath the back stairs and accessed from the Keeping Room (Kitchen), are of mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century construction, but the upper part of this stairway is lined with vertical oak plank walls that appear to be original.

At the northeast corner of this cellar, large stone steps (original, or 19<sup>th</sup>-century) lead up to the east side yard, via the entry described above (*Photo 14*).

Beneath the west ell, the cellar also has a poured concrete floor. Four steel columns (date unknown) support the first-floor structure. The west wall bears evidence of a stovepipe hole cut into the ell's brick chimney (likely from a coal-burning furnace), and of a previous exit to the west side yard that was infilled with mortared fieldstone (probably in the early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century; a ca. 1930s historic photo (*Figure 3*) shows a bulkhead in this approximate location). The original internal cellar stairs in the west ell were beneath the existing stairway to the second floor, but were removed in 2010 due to deterioration.

### ***Main Block - Floor Plans (Plans 1 and 2)***

In Rhode Island, the typical late 18<sup>th</sup>-century Georgian house had a five-room central chimney plan, with two rooms at the front and three at the rear, and a narrow, steep, winding stairway situated against the chimney mass opposite the front entrance. Both front rooms and the central rear room (usually the keeping room, or kitchen) had fireplaces, while the two rear corner rooms were unheated.

The Allin House plan is organized around an 8-foot-square central chimney stack and a framing system that included twelve cased posts (most of which survive), but it presents an unusual variation on the five-room typology. The two rear (northeast and northwest) corner rooms on both floors were subdivided by partition walls that ran east-west and were constructed of white oak vertical planks matching those found in the other interior and exterior walls of the main block. One of these partition walls survives, on the second floor at the northeast corner of the house; its structure was revealed when a doorway was introduced between what are now the master bathroom and walk-in closet in 2010 (*Plan 2, Photos 38-39*). The partition wall on the first floor at the northwest corner of the house was removed in 2010 (and is presently stored on site), but photos taken prior to removal confirmed that the vertical oak planks of that partition wall matched the vertical oak planks of the exterior west wall (*Photo 27*). This physical evidence

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<sup>3</sup> Shelving arrayed around the chimney mass covers two of these voids, but one could be photographed.

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suggests that all four partition walls in the northeast and northwest corner rooms on both floors may have been original, in which case the seven-room plan with five rooms at the rear of the house (two unheated rooms on either side of the central keeping room), plus a second, straight-run stairway against the west wall of the keeping room, is also original. Further study may yield a more definitive conclusion in future, but as far as is known, a seven-room plan would make the Allin House unique compared to all other surviving pre-Revolutionary War houses in Rhode Island. See Section 8 for a possible explanation for why the house was built this way.

The original floor plan was modified several times within and after the Period of Significance to accommodate the changing needs of the families that have occupied the house since it was built over 250 years ago. These changes produced the present configuration of five rooms on the first floor and six rooms on the second floor of the main block, and are described more specifically below in relation to the various individual spaces in which they occurred. Alterations to the floor plans that post-dated 1952 were relatively minor and could be reversed.

### ***Main Block - Materials and Finishes***

Historic finishes are evident throughout the main block. Unless otherwise specified in the descriptions of individual rooms, floors are wide-plank pine, walls and ceilings are plaster over lath, and interior doors are four-panel with period wrought-iron hardware. Most of the twelve framing posts are original and covered in beaded-edge wood casings that are typical of the mid-to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Woodwork ranges from simple beaded 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century trim to Colonial Revival-style molding, reflecting different periods of renovation and repair.

### ***Main Block - First Floor Rooms***

The rooms on this floor (*Plan 1*) are described counter-clockwise, beginning with the main entrance vestibule on the south façade.

#### ***Entrance Vestibule and Front Stair Hall (Photos 15, 16)***

The principal entrance opens into a small vestibule that is also the front stair hall, with wide-plank chestnut flooring and molded wood chair rails trimming the walls. On the east and west sides of this vestibule, Georgian six-panel wood doors on H-L hinges open to the southeast and southwest parlors. The trim around these two interior doorways and the under-stair closet door features beaded trim and back moldings (some replaced areas).

The boxed, winder stairs are set against the north wall of this vestibule and feature Georgian-style turned wood newel posts and balusters, wide molding decorating the stringer, and a drop pendant ornament. Beneath the stairs, a repurposed Georgian six-paneled wood door opens to a closet that occupies the former location of the original cellar stairs (removed in 1951). In the back wall of the closet, a small, heavy, pine door opens to a smoking chamber in the chimney stack (see the description of the keeping room fireplace, below, for more details).

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The front doorway is trimmed with Colonial Revival-style molding, probably added in 1951 when the exterior trim of this doorway was restored. Beaded pine vertical planks have been installed on the interior face of the front door, which is hung on reproduction massive iron strap hinges and features an 18<sup>th</sup> century rim lock; these features were present in 1980 (*Figure 5*), but may have been added in 1951.

*Southeast Parlor (Living Room) (Photos 17-19)*

The southeast parlor, currently used as a living room, retains its original dimensions of about 16 feet on each side. Exposed posts with beaded casings can be seen in all four corners of this room.

The fireplace in the west wall of this room (*Photo 19*) has a “Rumford-style” shallow brick firebox with splayed sides, a technological innovation of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century that radiated heat into the room more efficiently. The fireplace also has a slate slab hearth and a Federal-style mantelpiece consisting of molded wood trim around the firebox opening; a paneled frieze; and a molded mantel shelf. The wood, four-paneled overmantel includes a central, two-door cupboard, its doors mounted on early decorated H hinges with rose-headed nails.

The crown molding in the southwest parlor appears to be original, although a strip of plain trim beneath these moldings may be a later alteration. The wood baseboards and window trim are Colonial Revival.

*Northeast Corner Rooms (Dining Room) (Photos 20-21)*

The original two small, unheated northeast corner rooms at the rear of the house were combined into one large room and renovated, probably in conjunction with the construction of the east addition (“China Closet” on *Plan 1*), ca. 1922-1951. Now a dining room, it features an original corner post with beaded casing in its northeast corner (a similar post in the northwest corner of the room is not original); a built-in cupboard in its southeast corner with a full-height, six-panel Georgian door (relocated from elsewhere in the house); and Colonial Revival-style trim including baseboards, chair rails, crown moldings, window and door surrounds. The wide-plank pine floors are covered with narrow fir boards.

*Keeping Room (Kitchen) (Photos 22-25) and Back Stairway*

The first floor keeping room is the original kitchen, and remains in that function. The south wall of this room, composed of vertical wood planks, is dominated by a large brick cooking fireplace, 5 feet 6 inches wide, with two integral bake ovens (*Photos 23, 24*). The original beehive oven with a curved-top opening is situated off-center in the back wall of the firebox. A second bake oven with a square opening, which may have been installed ca. 1802 when the house was subdivided into two dwelling units with a shared kitchen, is situated to the right of the firebox and has a similar opening beneath it where firewood could be stored. (If either bake oven had a door originally, those doors are not extant.) An unusual feature of this fireplace is a large whetstone, 18 inches tall and 10 inches wide, embedded inside the firebox at its left front corner



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so that one long edge of the whetstone is exposed (*Photo 25*); that edge is heavily worn, indicating that kitchen knives and other bladed implements were sharpened there over many years. The whetstone has “T. A. 1783” carved into it; “T.A.” refers to Thomas Allin, and the date may refer to when it was installed.

Four removable bricks in the back throat of the fireplace allow smoke to pass into a brick-lined chamber ringed with two ranks of hand-forged nails, used for hanging meats to be smoked. Accrued soot in the smoke chamber attests to its long-term use; corncob debris (used in the smoking process) is still present. As previously noted, the smoke chamber is accessed from the closet beneath the front stairs.

The kitchen fireplace was walled up from the early decades of the 19th century (when cast iron cookstoves came into widespread use) until it was restored in 1951.<sup>4</sup> A niche in the wall above the fireplace (*Photo 23*), exposing some of the chimney masonry and containing two narrow shelves, is not shown in a 1952 historic photo but may have been introduced as part of an extensive renovation project conducted just before the end of the Period of Significance (*Figure 4*). The Colonial Revival-style mantelpiece, including a four-panel wood door covering the square bake oven and firewood bin, was installed in 2010.

The kitchen was updated several times during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and most recently in 2010 with modern countertops and cupboards lining the north and east walls. Window and door openings feature historic wood trim.

The original back stairway on the west wall of the kitchen provides vertical access from the cellar to the attic. The stairway is enclosed by a vertical plank wall, plastered on the kitchen side, and edged with worn beaded trim and a (replacement) baseboard and chair rail. Inside the stairway up to the second floor, the wall is faced with horizontal boards of different vintages. Newer pine stair treads were laid over the original pine treads at an unknown date.

#### *Northwest Corner Rooms (North Bedroom (Photos 26, 27) and Rear Entry Hall)*

The two original small, unheated northwest corner rooms were reconfigured in 2010 by removing the original partition wall between them (*Photo 27*) and installing a new partition wall a few feet to the north, resulting in the “north bedroom” and “rear entry hall” (*Plan 1*). The north bedroom, presently part of the first-floor in-law apartment, has narrow fir flooring laid over the original wide pine planks, walls of plaster and drywall, beaded door and window trim, and plain wood baseboards.

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<sup>4</sup> “They Settled for an Old House,” *Providence Sunday Journal*, February 3, 1952. Since Barrington historian Thomas W. Bicknell wrote about this house several times in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but never mentioned the date 1783, it is likely that he was not aware of the whetstone inscribed with that date.

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The rear entry hall has modern board-and-batten closet doors on its south wall and non-historic wood trim. Walls are a mix of plaster and drywall. It has wide-plank pine flooring, which was relocated from the attic in 2010.

*Southwest Parlor (South Bedroom) (Photos 28-30)*

The southwest parlor (labeled “south bedroom” on *Plan 1*) is presently part of a first-floor in-law apartment. This room was reduced in size by partition walls added parallel to its north side (ca. 1802) and west side (2010). The north partition wall was originally composed of plaster-covered wood planks, and previously enclosed a storage space, used as a pantry in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>5</sup> that had two doorways. One of those doorways survives, leading into what is presently a small pass-through closet that also opens to the kitchen. The closet has original wide-plank chestnut flooring, and modern shelving on its east and west sides; an exposed post (7-inch hewn white oak, casing removed at an unknown date) inside this closet marks what was originally the northeast corner of the southwest parlor. The other doorway in the north partition wall (and the historic door within it) was covered over with drywall when a small laundry room was inserted into part of the former pantry in 2010. The west partition wall in this room, added in 2010, forms a small passageway leading to the in-law apartment’s other bedroom (labeled “north bedroom” on *Plan 1*) and to the rest of the apartment’s living space in the first floor of the west ell.

The original fireplace in the southwest parlor was located in its east wall; the mantelpiece and hearth were removed and the firebox was covered by a lath-and-plaster wall in 1951.<sup>6</sup>

The six-panel door in the east wall of the southwest parlor, leading to the front stair hall, is set in a beaded and back-molded plank frame; the rest of the trim in this room (window and door casings, baseboards, chair rail on the south wall) is Colonial Revival.

***Main Block - Second Floor Rooms***

The second-floor rooms in the main block (*Plan 2*) are described counter-clockwise, beginning with the front stair hall.

*Front Stair Hall (Photo 35)*

The second-floor front stair hall provides access to the southeast and southwest bedchambers through six-panel wood doors; the door surrounds have Federal-style moldings with shouldered architraves. Similar trim surrounds the window in the south wall of this hallway.

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<sup>5</sup> “They Settled for an Old House,” *Providence Sunday Journal*, February 3, 1952.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

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High on the north wall of the stairway is a Federal-style four-panel door, 40 inches tall by 20 inches wide, with H hinges and trim matching that around the adjacent doors and window. This door provides access (purpose unknown) to the chimney mass.

*Southeast Chamber (Master Bedroom) (Photos 36-37)*

The southeast chamber, now the master bedroom, retains its original 16-foot-square dimensions. The fireplace in the west wall features a Federal-style surround in which a beaded double casing with backband is surmounted by two 14-inch fluted pilasters supporting a deep, molded and dentiled mantel shelf. The open firebox retains its original brick, while the hearth has replacement brick. The baseboard is beaded, while the doors and windows have beaded double casing with backband molding.

*Northeast Corner Rooms (Master Bath and Master Closet) (Photos 38-39)*

The two original rooms in the northeast corner of the second floor have been repurposed as the master bath and master closet; a doorway that was cut into the partition wall between these two rooms in 2010 revealed the wall's vertical plank construction, indicating that this wall appears to be an original feature. Finishes are simple in these spaces. The original wide-plank pine flooring remains in both rooms. The walls in the master bath are a mix of plaster and drywall; its trim elements (baseboards, door and window surrounds) are beaded, with no backband; bathroom fixtures are modern. The master closet has plain wood baseboard and door casings, while the window trim is plain with backband molding, likely dating to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Second Floor Sitting Room (Master Multi-Use Room) and Back Stair Hall (Photos 40-42)*

The second floor sitting room (labeled "Master Multi-Use Room" on *Plan 2*) is presently part of the master suite and used as a home office (*Photos 41, 42*). It has an original exposed post with beaded-edge casing on its north wall between two windows. The original firebox on the south wall has a simple beaded and back-molded surround, and a recessed open cupboard above framed by a simple candlestick molding. The hearth includes some apparently original double-width bricks.

Modern (post-1952) built-in floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and cabinets with Colonial Revival-style cornice moldings cover the entire east wall of this room, except for the doorway leading to the back stair hall. Full-height shelving lines the west wall between the doorways to the two northeast corner rooms (master bath, master closet).

Doorways in this room are trimmed with beaded casings and backband molding; the window trim has beaded casings but no backband molding. The baseboards are plain.

A partition wall with hand-planed, vertical pine planks was installed ca. 1802 when the house was divided into two dwelling units, to separate the second floor sitting room (which became part of the eastern dwelling unit) from the back stairs (which remained common space). This

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partition wall (*Photo 42*) runs north-south, anchored with massive hand-wrought nails into a header beam attached to the west chimney girt (the large nail heads remain visible); a four-panel door with Federal-period rim lock opens into the keeping room. The partition wall forms the north-south portion of the L-shaped back stair hall, which gives access to the northwest corner bedroom and to the attic stairs. The doorways to the keeping room, northwest bedroom, and the attic stairs have plain wood historic trim; a window in the north exterior wall of the hallway has plain modern trim. Baseboards throughout the back stair hall are plain wood trim.

The upper part of the back stairs is enclosed on its east side by a section of tall, turned balusters that appear to be of late 19<sup>th</sup> century vintage. Perpendicular to the top of the stairs, the east-west portion of the L-shaped back stair hall (created in 2010) provides access to the southwest and northwest bedrooms in the main block and also connects to the second floor of the west ell.

#### *Northwest Corner Rooms (Northwest Bedroom)*

Ca. 1976-1980, the two original rooms in the northwest corner of the second floor were combined into the northwest bedroom (*Plan 2*).<sup>7</sup> In 2010 this room was reduced in size by installing a partition wall on its south side to create the east-west portion of the back stair hall, and also by adding a beadboard closet with beadboard door in the resulting southeast corner of the bedroom. The finishes in this room reflect this change: window trim is a mix of Georgian casing and modern trim; the baseboards and door trim are plain; and the chair rail likely dates to the 1980s.

#### *Southwest Chamber ("Widow Allin's Bedroom") (Photos 43-44)*

This chamber (labeled "Widow Allin's Bedroom" on *Plan 2*) lay within the western portion of the house that was granted in dower to the widowed Amy Allin in 1802. The brick fireplace in its east wall features a fine Federal-style dentiled mantelpiece and a full-height overmantel with fluted pilasters. (The northern end of the mantel was restored in 2010, after removal of an early 19<sup>th</sup> century partition wall parallel to the north wall of this room.) The fireplace is flanked by symmetrical full-height recessed cupboards with beaded trim and stylized geometric detailing around the south opening; the cupboard doors are missing, but a Federal brass door latch survives for the north opening. The original exposed corner posts with beaded casings are visible on the east side of the room.

The size of this room was reduced sometime in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the installation, parallel to its west wall, of a partition wall enclosing three closets: one for this room, one in the back stair hall, and one in the adjacent bedroom in the west ell (see *Plan 2*).

Some 19<sup>th</sup> century trim survives around the north (hallway) doorway of this room; the remainder of the trim (baseboards, door frames) is modern but of Colonial Revival style.

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<sup>7</sup> "General Allin Homestead Refurbished," *Providence Sunday Journal*, April 23-24, 1980.

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### ***Main Block - Attic (Photos 47-49)***

The attic extends across the entire width of the main block. It is accessed from the back stair hall on the second floor, where a four-panel door encloses the uppermost flight of the back stairs: a straight stairway enclosed by vertical pine paneling on its east side and a plaster wall on the west. At the top of the attic stairs, two massive nail heads retain fragments of leather for early trap-door hinges (no trap survives).

In the unfinished attic, pegged and numbered oak rafters (*example, Photo 47*) and collar ties are all exposed, and rest on mid- to late 20th-century trusswork added to strengthen the roof structure. (A steel I-beam was inserted in 2010 below the rafters in the northwest corner of the house for additional support.) The parged chimney, canted to the north (rear) so that it emerges at the ridge, dominates the center of this space. Pine plank flooring and subflooring remains throughout. The vertical oak sheathing is exposed on both gable ends. At the west end, the original beaded plank window frame with beaded pressure stop surrounds late 19th-century sash that has never been painted. The east window sash and trim are late 20<sup>th</sup> century replacements.

The western third of the attic (allocated to the owners of the west dwelling unit from 1802 to 1924) exhibits evidence of earlier finishes (*Photos 47, 48*): vestiges of rough pine plank partition walls with remnants of wallpaper and whitewash or milk paint; pine boards laid above the collar ties, with whitewash or milk paint on their undersides; ghosting from 19th- or 20th-century lath and plaster (removed in 2010) on the west wall. Fragments from General Thomas Allin's personal papers are also pasted to some sections of the framing or to planks that were salvaged from former partition walls (possibly in an attempt to insulate this unheated space). This physical evidence suggests that this portion of the attic may have been used as living space, perhaps for one or more non-family members who lived with various owners of the western portion of the house during the period ca. 1802-1924.

### ***West Ell - Floor Plans (Plan 1 and 2)***

The west ell's first-floor plan was modified in 2010 to become part of an in-law apartment, and now contains a multi-purpose room (labeled "Activity/Dining Room" on *Plan 1*), a galley-style kitchen, and a full bathroom. An entrance hall in the northwest corner of the ell provides egress to the driveway and garage area, as well as access to the ell's second floor via a quarter-turn stair.

The second floor of the west ell preserves more of its original layout and interior walls. It contains two bedrooms, a full bathroom, and a laundry room arranged around a short, angled hallway that connects to the main block.

### ***West Ell - Materials and Finishes***

Unless otherwise noted, floors in the West Ell are narrow fir boards, the walls and ceilings are finished in plaster or skim-coated drywall, and door openings are filled with mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century

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four-panel wood doors with clay knobs. Trim (window and door surrounds, baseboards) exhibits a variety of styles dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early- to mid-20th centuries.

### ***West Ell - First Floor Rooms (Plan 1)***

#### ***Multipurpose Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, and West Entrance Hall (Photos 31-32)***

A large multipurpose room (labeled “activity/dining room” on *Plan 1*) extends across the full width of the south side of the ell. The exterior walls on the south and west sides of this room, and the ceiling, retain historic plaster finishes; interior partition walls built in 2010 are skim-coated drywall.

In the northwest corner of this room, partition walls enclose the ell’s original brick chimney (which was built to vent a stovepipe, and never had any fireplaces) and a small closet.

A 19<sup>th</sup> century four-panel door set into the north wall of this room leads to the west entrance hall and the stairway to the ell’s second floor; these spaces are historic features of this ell and retain their historic floor, wall, ceiling, and trim finishes.

Along the north side of this room, skim-coated drywall partition walls enclose a galley kitchen and full bathroom, both with modern fixtures and finishes. A tall, wide, open doorway provides access to the kitchen.

Another tall, wide, open doorway in the east wall of this room leads to those portions of the in-law apartment that are within the main block and were previously described above: a short hallway (“passage” on *Plan 1*), laundry room, and two bedrooms (“north” and “south” bedrooms on *Plan 1*, formerly one of the northwest rooms and the southwest parlor of the main block). The passage also provides access to the bathroom of the in-law apartment that lies within this ell, which has modern fixtures and finishes; the bathroom door is a Georgian-period, four-panel door.

The plain baseboards and Colonial Revival style trim around windows and door openings on this level were installed in 2010.

### ***West Ell - Second Floor Rooms (Plan 2)***

#### ***Center Bedroom and Southwest Bedroom (Photos 45-46)***

The two bedrooms on the second floor (labeled “center bedroom” and “southwest bedroom” on *Plan 2*) are situated across the south side of the ell. Both rooms have plaster walls and ceilings, and narrow board fir flooring laid over the original pine floors.

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The center bedroom has a closet on its east wall (which was originally part of the adjacent “Widow Allin’s bedroom” in the southwest chamber of the main block). Partition walls in the northwest corner of this room enclose a closet for the southwest bedroom (*see Plan 2*).

Woodwork in both bedrooms consists of beaded baseboard; plain door casings; window casings with plain trim and backstop molding. The southwest bedroom has a deep molded chair rail.

#### *Children’s Bathroom, Passage, and Laundry Room*

The “children’s bathroom” occupies the northwest corner of the second floor; it has plaster walls and ceiling, and early- to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century tile flooring installed over the original pine floor. Window and door casings are plain, and the baseboard features a simple molding. Bathroom fixtures are modern.

The “passage” or hallway, built in 2010, extends diagonally northeast-southwest between the top of the ell stairway and the back stair hall of the main block; its wide pine flooring is original to the ell. The laundry room on the north side of the ell is a trapezoidal-shaped space with wide pine flooring; beaded baseboards and window and door casings were installed in 2010.

#### ***North Additions (ca. 1895-1921) – First Floor (Alcove, Lavatory and Sunroom) (Photos 33-34)***

Within the small shed-roofed north addition (*Plan 1*) are an alcove, presently used as a mudroom (*Photo 33*), and lavatory (half-bath), renovated in 2010. The wide-plank pine flooring in both rooms was relocated from the attic. The alcove has a mix of plaster and drywall walls, beaded baseboard and window casings, and a window seat with storage underneath. In the lavatory, a portion of the original (north) exterior wall of the ca. 1769-1774 main block, clad in 19th-century clapboards, is exposed; other walls are drywall, and the baseboard and door trim are Georgian style replicas.

The larger gable-roofed portion of the north addition, presently used as a sunroom (*Photo 34*), is finished with skim-coated drywall on its walls, modern wood flooring, and modern plain wood window and door trim. One section of interior wall, opposite the sliding glass doors, is finished with distressed, stained, horizontal wood planks.

#### ***East Addition (ca. 1922-1951) – First Floor (China Closet)***

The east addition is one story tall and contains one small room (labeled “China Closet” on Plan 1) that is one step up from the dining room. This room has built-in cupboards on its north wall, simple wood trim around its doorway and windows, and narrow board fir flooring.

The General Thomas Allin House property also includes three additional structures.

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**Well (19<sup>th</sup> century, mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century) (Photos 7, 8)**  
**One contributing structure**

A mortared fieldstone well is situated in the east side yard about 29 feet from the house. Below grade, the stonework likely dates to the 19th century, if not earlier. (This may be the well to which the widowed Amy Allin was granted a lifetime privilege when the house was divided between herself and her son William Allin in 1802; see Section 8.) Above ground, where the stone rises to a height of about three feet, the stone was either rebuilt or re-pointed sometime in the mid- to late 20th century. A flat circular stone covers the well opening. A small, decorative wooden well cover appears to be of mid- to late 20<sup>th</sup> century vintage; its asphalt-shingled gable roof with exposed rafters is supported by two timber posts.

**Garage (1965) (Photos 9, 10)**  
**One non-contributing building**

A 1½-story, three-bay garage stands about 37 feet northwest of the house and is partially built into a small hill in the back yard. Its asphalt-shingled saltbox roof is topped with a small wood cupola and extends forward over the south facade, providing an overhang several feet deep. The south elevation is sheathed in wood clapboard, and contains three garage bays that contain modern, metal paneled overhead doors. The side and rear elevations are clad in thin composite vertical board sheathing in a shiplap style. The east elevation has a wood, 1-over-1, double-hung window on the first floor, and a board-and-batten barn-like loft door (with a hoist above it) in the gable end, providing access to the storage loft over the parking bays. The west elevation has one wood, 1-over-1 double-hung window in its gable end. The north elevation is only a few feet tall due to the change in grade and the building's saltbox profile, and has no fenestration. The garage sits on a poured-concrete foundation.

A tall wood stockade fence that partially surrounds the swimming pool behind the garage intersects with the garage's west elevation; a gate in that fence provides access to the pool area from the driveway.

**Swimming Pool (ca. 1995) (Photo 10)**  
**One non-contributing structure**

An oval in-ground pool of vinyl-lined concrete, about 15 feet x 30 feet, surrounded by a concrete apron, lies about six feet behind the north (rear) wall of the garage. The pool area is enclosed by tall cedar stockade fencing to the south, west and north, and chain-link fencing set within perennial plantings to the east.



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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Social History

Ethnic Heritage/Black

**Period of Significance**

Architecture: ca. 1769-ca. 1952

Social History, Ethnic Heritage/Black: ca. 1769-ca. 1800

**Significant Dates**

ca. 1769-1774: original house built

1802: partitioned as a two-family home

1857: west ell built

ca. 1952: restored and returned to single-family use

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The General Thomas Allin House meets National Register Criteria A and C and is significant at the local level. Under Criterion A, in the Areas of Significance "Social History" and "Ethnic Heritage/Black," the Allin House (built ca. 1769-1774) is one of six surviving 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in Barrington that have a documented association with enslaved people of African heritage. It is illustrative of the Allin family's significant role as enslavers over multiple generations, as slavery thrived and then gradually diminished in Barrington over the course of

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the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. General Thomas Allin (1742-1800) was a military officer who served in the Revolutionary War, an elected official who held several local and statewide political offices, and a member of a wealthy and prominent family whose roots in Barrington date back to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1774, Thomas Allin along with his brother and their mother collectively enslaved eleven people of color (five of whom were documented as part of Thomas Allin's household), representing about 19% of the enslaved population of Barrington at that time. Under Criterion C, in the Area of Significance "Architecture," the Allin House is one of only ten surviving pre-Revolutionary War dwellings in Barrington, and a notable example of late Georgian/early Federal style architecture, with many surviving historic features and finishes. Originally the nucleus of a 300-acre farm, subdivided and developed into a suburban neighborhood in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Allin House remains a rare and well-preserved example of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling house with later additions.

The Period of Significance begins ca. 1769 with the earliest possible construction date for the house. For Criterion A, under the Areas of Significance "Social History" and "Ethnic Heritage/Black," the Period of Significance ends ca. 1800, when free persons of African heritage were last recorded as residing with members of the Allin family in this house. For Criterion C, under the Area of Significance "Architecture," the Period of Significance ends ca. 1952, when a substantive repair and restoration project was completed that preserved many historic 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural features, and returned the house to its original use as a single-family dwelling after over a century of two-family use. The various alterations and additions that occurred during the Period of Significance reflect the changing needs of the Allin House's owners and occupants over almost two centuries as the property gradually transitioned from a rural farmstead to a suburban dwelling.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

## **HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE GEN. THOMAS ALLIN HOUSE AND FARM**

### **Summary History of Barrington, 1653-1950**

Prior to European settlement, the land area that comprises Barrington, Rhode Island was called Sowams and was occupied by the Pokanoket people, an indigenous tribe within the Wampanoag federation. English and Welsh settlers first laid claim to this area with the Sowams Purchase of 1653, as part of Plymouth Colony. The town of Swansea in Plymouth Colony, founded in 1667, included all of present-day Barrington.

Many colonial settlements across southern New England were burned over the course of King Philip's War (1675-76), an armed conflict between Native Americans and English settlers and their Indigenous allies. When the colonists eventually prevailed, the Indigenous people who had already suffered enormous casualties were also subjected to post-war enslavement and forced relocation to other English colonies. In the aftermath, as the colonists rebuilt previously

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established communities and founded new ones at a rapidly accelerating pace, Plymouth Colony merged with the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1691, and Swansea became part of Massachusetts. In 1717, the western part of Swansea was incorporated as the town of Barrington, Massachusetts; in 1747, an adjustment to the boundary between Massachusetts and Rhode Island resulted in parts of Barrington and Swansea becoming the new town of Warren, Rhode Island. Finally, in 1770, the inhabitants of western Warren successfully petitioned the General Assembly to become an independent municipality, incorporated as the Town of Barrington, Rhode Island.

From the time of first settlement through the mid-19th century, Barrington's economic base was primarily farming, with extensive acreage under cultivation for various grains and fodder, or used as grazing land for livestock of all kinds. Throughout this period, one salient feature of Barrington's rural society was the enslavement of African- and Indigenous-heritage people, principally on the largest farms such as that established by the Allin family. In the first colony-wide census taken in 1774, Barrington ranked 27<sup>th</sup> out of 29 towns in population with 601 residents, but it ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in percentage of Black residents (6.8%, representing 41 people), 8<sup>th</sup> in percentage of Indigenous residents (3.0%, representing 18 people), and 9<sup>th</sup> in total percentage of people of color (9.8%, representing 59 individuals) (*Appendix 2*).<sup>8</sup> (See "Criterion A: Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Black," below, for further discussion.)

The construction of railroad lines in the 1850s, connecting Barrington to Providence for commuter transport and also serving Barrington's growing brickmaking industry, initiated Barrington's transformation from a rural community to a suburban town. Barrington's population doubled, from about 795 residents in 1850 to 1,668 by 1895, and expanded again to 2,452 by 1910.<sup>9</sup> The second half of the nineteenth century saw a corresponding acceleration in housing construction, and hundreds of acres of former farmlands were platted for new development. This trend reached its peak during the first half of the 20th century, as illustrated on maps of 1855, 1870, 1895, and 1921 (*Maps 5, 6, 8, and 9*). Amidst this striking transformation, nineteen 18<sup>th</sup>-century houses, ten of them built before the Revolutionary War (*Appendix 1*), survived in Barrington, of which the General Thomas Allin House is a notable example.

### **The General Thomas Allin House and Farm, ca. 1769-1800<sup>10</sup>**

The Allin family's roots in Barrington dated back to 1678, when William<sup>1</sup> Allin (ca. 1634-1685) acquired land in what is now western Barrington, and soon afterward built a dwelling house (demolished before 1898).<sup>11</sup> Over the next three generations, the Allin homestead farm grew to

<sup>8</sup> These census figures should be interpreted as estimates. Census data was collected from heads of households, the majority of whom were white; enslaved people would not have been asked to self-identify their African, Indigenous, or mixed heritage.

<sup>9</sup> Adams et al, 11, 19.

<sup>10</sup> The italic superscript numbers assigned to various Allin family members signify which generation they belonged to (see the Allin family tree, *Figure 1*).

<sup>11</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 14, described William Allin's house as a stone-ender, "built before 1670 ... located on the north side of the road leading to the Drownville Depot;" however, deed research conducted for this

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encompass more than 300 acres of land and included a family burial ground.<sup>12</sup> It passed from William to his son Thomas<sup>2</sup> Allin (1668-1719), then to Thomas's son Matthew<sup>3</sup> Allin (1697–1761), who amassed significant wealth and influence during his lifetime: in addition to being a major landowner, he owned the Barrington–Warren ferry franchise, and served in various local offices in both Barrington, Massachusetts and Warren, Rhode Island, including Town Council Selectman and Moderator, Town Treasurer, Chief Justice of the Bristol County Court, and Deputy (i.e., Representative) to the colonial General Assembly.<sup>13</sup> The Allins intermarried with other local families, among them the Waldrons, Vials, Bicknells, and Tiffanys, that shared their deep roots in the community as well as their socioeconomic status as wealthy landowners actively engaged in civic affairs; most of these families, including the Allins, also enslaved people of color as a means of retaining and growing their multigenerational wealth (see “Criterion A,” below). Allin descendants continued to live in Barrington into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After Matthew<sup>3</sup> Allin died in 1761, the family farm passed to his two youngest children and only sons: 19-year-old Thomas<sup>4</sup> Allin (1742-1800), and 17-year-old Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin (1744-1794). Thomas Allin, who built the nominated property, followed the family tradition of public service throughout his life. He was first elected to the Rhode Island General Assembly, representing Warren, in 1767 when he was only 25 years old. Over the next three decades he was re-elected for several additional terms as a Representative from Barrington. In 1770, Thomas Allin's name headed one of the petitions which led to the political separation of Barrington and Warren within Rhode Island; thereafter he also held various elected and appointed local offices including selectman, treasurer, tax assessor, and census taker.<sup>14</sup>

In 1768, Thomas married Amy Bicknell (1751-1827) and they had their first child.<sup>15</sup> The following year, in four quitclaim deeds all dated May 26, 1769, the Allin brothers divided the family farm in half: each brother's share containing “by estimation” 148 acres and 100 rods, plus four acres of salt marsh in Allin's Cove (all four deeds contained clear boundary descriptions).<sup>16</sup>

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nomination confirmed 1678 as the first known year that William Allin acquired land in what is now Barrington. The exact construction date of his house is unknown. Its demolition pre-dated the publication of Bicknell's book in 1898, but a photo of it can be found opposite p. 16. Adams et al (between pp. 9-10) reprinted that photo and described the William Allin House as “formerly located near the corner of Washington Road and Alfred Drowne Road ... 17<sup>th</sup> century, demolished ... a 2-room house with a huge stone chimney at its east end ... later enlarged to a 5-bay facade.” The photo indicates that the house had several other characteristics of an early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian dwelling: center entrance, flank-gable roof, clapboard siding, and wood 12/12 double hung sash windows with splayed lintels.

<sup>12</sup> The Allin Burial Ground (RI Historical Cemetery #BA006), with over 100 burials dating from 1719 to 1921, is not included in this nomination. See “Criterion A – Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Black” for more information.

<sup>13</sup> Smith, 227; also Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 251-76.

<sup>14</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 290, 294, 301, 429-30, 590-91.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 600: Thomas Allin and “Amey” Bicknell married on May 29, 1768. The Find A Grave website indicates that their eldest son William<sup>5</sup> Allin was born on August 17, 1768.

<sup>16</sup> Warren, R.I. Deeds, 2:247-248, 252-253. These deeds reference “the Cove” in boundary descriptions; it had acquired the name “Allin's Cove” by 1802 (Barrington, R.I. Deeds 2:354-58), and retains that name today (*Map 1*).

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Matthew<sup>4</sup>'s portion also included the century-old house originally built by their great-grandfather. A contemporary map of the farm drawn by Thomas Allin, showing the division line of the two halves as well as a draft of the salt marsh division parcels, is attached as *Map 2*.

Having recently experienced three major life events in quick succession (marriage, the birth of a child, and the apportionment of a sizeable inheritance), between 1769 and 1774 Thomas Allin built a 2½-story, Georgian style, five-bay, center-chimney dwelling (the main block of the present house) on what had become, through the acquisition of an adjacent 40-acre parcel, his 202-acre farm.<sup>17</sup> Physical evidence indicates that this dwelling did not grow from an earlier core structure, but was built all at once: it has a full basement with deep stone foundation walls, uniform pegged oak rafter framing, and uniform exposed joists under the first floor. Thomas and Amy Allin may have chosen to build their new home with an unusually capacious seven-room plan in anticipation of raising a large family (according to the Allin family tree, *Figure 1*, they had at most two very young children when the farm was divided, and would eventually have a total of twelve offspring born over a period of 23 years), and/or to demonstrate their wealth and status in the community. But they may also have had an immediate need for a dwelling of this size.

The 1774 census of Barrington (part of the first colony-wide census of Rhode Island) indicated that Thomas Allin's household included fourteen individuals, none of whom (save Thomas himself) were named in the census: nine white people and five Black people.<sup>18</sup> This census recorded the white people in the household as one male over age 16 (Thomas), two females over age 16 (one of whom was Amy), and three males and three females under age 16. According to the Allin family tree (*Figure 1*), by 1774 Thomas and Amy Allin had one son and three daughters under the age of eight, which accounts for one of the young males and all three young females. The identities of the other white adult woman and two white male children are not known: possibly they were a family group related to Thomas or to Amy Allin; or perhaps one or more of them (if the boys were old enough) were live-in indentured or paid domestic servants or farm laborers. Three Black men and two Black women, all over age 16, also lived in the Allin household; the census did not indicate their status as enslaved or free, but other documentation confirms that at least two of the men were enslaved, and since all five of these people lived with a white family (as enslaved persons throughout New England typically did during this period),

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Thomas Allin also bought a 40-acre parcel, abutting the western half of the farm to the north, from Josiah Humphrey, on November 18, 1768: Warren Deeds, 2:205.

<sup>17</sup> Adams et al, 64, using preliminary survey data collected in or before 1993 by the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission, identified "1783" as the construction date of the Thomas Allin House, based presumably on the kitchen fireplace whetstone carved with that date. However, the original architectural features of the house as well as the 1774 Barrington census naming Thomas Allin as head of his own household collectively suggest a construction date no earlier than the 1769 property division but before the 1774 census. The house now bears a Barrington Preservation Society plaque with "c. 1769" on it. (Thomas W. Bicknell had dated the house variously to "Before 1800" (*History of Barrington* [1898], 590), and "1788" (*Genealogy of the Bicknell Family* [1913], 44); his basis for the latter date is not known.)

<sup>18</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 301.

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likely all of them were enslaved and worked in the Allin house and/or on the farm.<sup>19</sup> (See “Criterion A – Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Black,” below, for more discussion on this topic.) Thus, in 1774 Thomas and Amy Allin’s household included eight individuals who were not members of their immediate family. If the Allins had had a similar number of people living with them five years earlier when they were building this dwelling, that could explain the home’s large size. Those individuals who worked for the Allins (whether enslaved, indentured, or paid) may have occupied some of the small first and second floor rooms at the rear northeast and northwest corners of the house; others may have had sleeping quarters in the attic.<sup>20</sup>

In 1775, just before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, Thomas Allin was appointed as a Captain of the Barrington Company of the Bristol County Regiment of the Rhode Island Militia. He led the Barrington Company on and off through much of the war. After the war, Allin continued to rise in the ranks of Rhode Island’s state militia: in 1782 he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in command of the Bristol County Regiment, and in 1794 he was named Brigadier General commanding the militia of Newport and Bristol Counties, a position he held for six years until his death. General Allin’s many years of military experience as an officer and quartermaster prepared him for other posts at the state level, such as the commission appointed by the General Assembly to review Rhode Islanders’ financial claims arising from wartime losses.

In the 1779 Barrington property tax assessment, Thomas Allin’s farm consisted of 202 acres with six total structures (dwelling house and various outbuildings). The acreage was mostly pasture: 124 acres supporting 15 cattle, 4 oxen, and 50 sheep, plus 20 acres for tilled crops, and the rest (58 acres) in woodlot, fruit orchard, and meadow (fresh and salt hay). This probably indicates that Allin’s farm not only supported his own family’s needs but also produced market commodities such as meat, milk, cheese, butter, wool, leather, cider, and animal fodder.<sup>21</sup> The total value of Thomas Allin’s estate, 1620 pounds sterling, made him the wealthiest man in Barrington at the age of 37. His younger brother Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin (age 35) was ranked fourth, with an estate assessed at £1220, so the Allin brothers collectively controlled the largest and most valuable acreage in Barrington.<sup>22</sup> This level of affluence, combined with Thomas Allin’s lifetime of distinguished public service in civic affairs and in the military, made him one of the most prominent Barrington men of his generation.

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<sup>19</sup> Grasek et al, 12.

<sup>20</sup> In *History of Barrington*, Bicknell states that several of the individuals and families enslaved by the white Allin family lived in their own dwellings, though it is not clear if this was during their enslavement or afterwards. Some of these dwellings may have been located on land owned by the white Allin family (see *Appendix 3*).

<sup>21</sup> Adams et al, 11. At least some of Thomas Allin’s wealth was inherited; whether he engaged in any business enterprises (as his father had done) in addition to agriculture could not be determined.

<sup>22</sup> Black and Garrity, Part 1, 19, 20. Spreadsheet at Barrington Town Hall; individual property holders’ returns at Barrington Preservation Society, Barrington Town Records Coll., folder 2, do not include an original return slip for Thomas Allin (who was the assessor). Ranked immediately below him were Matthew Watson, total holdings, £1618, and Joshua Bicknell, £1530. The estate of “Governor Cooke” in Barrington was valued at £1554, but he did not live in the town.

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After the war, General Thomas Allin returned to his role as Barrington's tax assessor, and thus enumerated the assessments of real estate and personal property for the first Federal Direct Tax of October 1798. Preserved in the attic of his house are a page of the assessment ledger (with an entry for Allin's own property), and two printed form letters by which Allin solicited information from all property-holders in town.

General Thomas Allin and Samuel Allen, Esq. were the town's two representatives to a special state convention held in Newport in March 1790, to vote on the new United States Constitution. Barrington was the last town to vote; General Allin and Mr. Allen cast the tie-breaking "aye" votes by which Rhode Island finally ratified the U.S. Constitution: the last of the original thirteen states to do so.<sup>23</sup>

In 1792, Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin conveyed part of his share of the family farm, consisting of the Bay Spring peninsula, measuring about 30 acres (and including the family burying ground), to his brother Thomas.<sup>24</sup>

During the three decades (ca. 1769-1800) that they lived together in this house, Thomas and Amy Allin introduced some updates and renovations. A whetstone for sharpening knives and other bladed instruments was implanted in the left-hand wall of the kitchen firebox, inscribed "T. A. 1783." The initials refer to Thomas Allin; the significance of that date is unknown but may indicate when the stone was installed (*Photo 25*). A Rumford-style firebox was installed in the southeast parlor on the first floor (*Photo 19*); this type of firebox, shallow and with splayed sides to heat the room more efficiently, was invented in England about 1794 by Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, and by 1796 was in widespread usage in America.<sup>25</sup> On the second floor of the house, Federal-style mantelpieces were installed around the fireplaces in the southeast and southwest chambers (front bedrooms), and Federal-style trim was added in the adjacent front stair hall around the two chamber doorways, one window, and a small door giving access to the chimney stack (*Photo 35*). These alterations were likely completed before Thomas Allin died in 1800: two years later, the house was divided into two dwelling units, and the front bedchambers were separately allocated to each unit.

### ***Subdivision of House and Farm, 1802***

At the time of his death, General Thomas Allin's estate comprised about 317 acres, including lands purchased from his brother and others after the house was constructed. In 1802 that land was subdivided into 17 parcels for distribution among his widow and eleven surviving children (town records did not provide a map of that division, but *Map 3* shows 14 of the 17 parcels; the

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<sup>23</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 361-62

<sup>24</sup> Town of Barrington, Deeds 2:105. After Matthew Allin's death in 1794, his widow and children sold his remaining lands out of the family.

<sup>25</sup> Buckley Rumford Co. website.



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remainder were not contiguous with those 14). The subdivision deed also specified that two “two-rod [33-feet wide] lanes” be laid out, both of which later became the public streets of Lincoln Avenue, extending between Middle Highway and Washington Road, and Bay Spring Avenue, extending westward from Washington Road to the Providence River.<sup>26</sup>

The house was also divided into two separately owned dwelling units at this time. In her right of dower (which legally entitled her to one-third of her late husband’s estate), Amy Allin received a life interest in three parcels of land totaling 94 acres, and:

... one third part of the mansion house as follows (viz) the southwest great room & bedroom adjoining with two chambers over the same and the garret westward of the garret stairs also the Cellar under the front entry & the cellar under the said great room, together with the privilege during her life of cooking washing & baking in the kitchen passing in and out of the front doors & back doors passing to & from the well for water and passing up & downstairs to & from the said chambers & cellars in the most convenient & usual manner.<sup>27</sup>

Eldest son William<sup>5</sup> Allin received “a barn two old workshops one corn crib & the remaining two thirds of the mansion house not set off to the widow.” (None of those outbuildings survive.)

The intention for two households to share one kitchen appears to have prompted another alteration to the kitchen fireplace, which originally had one domed beehive oven in its rear wall. Probably ca. 1802, a square bake oven, plus a similarly sized and shaped firewood bin beneath it, were added to the right-hand side of that fireplace (*Photo 24*). The water well referenced in the partition deed may be the existing well that stands east of the house, the underground portions of which appear to be 19<sup>th</sup>-century stonework (*Photos 7, 8*).

Since Amy Allin’s one-third share of the house was on the west side of the central chimney, partition walls were constructed in the kitchen and in the second-floor sitting room, running north-south and attached to the west chimney girts. The first-floor partition wall is visible in a 1952 photograph of the kitchen (*Figure 4*) but was later removed, either during renovations undertaken that year or in the 1970s. The second-floor partition wall, made of vertical pine planks and containing a door with an early 19<sup>th</sup> century rim lock, separates the upper sitting room from the back stairs (*Photo 42, Plan 2*).

Another set of partition walls, probably also ca. 1802, ran east-west parallel to the north walls of both the southwest parlor and the chamber above it, reducing the depth of each room by about

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<sup>26</sup> Barrington Deeds 2:354-58. Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 419, noted that in 1820 Barrington voters authorized the Town Council to acquire the two-rod lane laid out by the heirs of Thomas Allin between Middle Highway and the “west highway” (Washington Road) as a public highway.

<sup>27</sup> Town of Barrington, Deeds 2:354-58; Probate Acts, 3:69-75 (also specified William<sup>5</sup> Allin’s inheritance). This document is not consistent with the physical evidence in the house that the two rear (northeast and northwest) corner rooms on both floors were subdivided in half, creating a 7-room plan; no explanation for this inconsistency was found.

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three feet (probably to provide closets or other storage space). The partition wall along the north side of the southwest parlor (labeled “south bedroom” on *Plan 1*) survives. Upstairs, the partition wall along the north side of the southwest chamber (labeled “Widow Allin’s Bedroom” on *Plan 2*) covered the northern end of the Federal-style mantelpiece and an adjacent built-in cupboard next to the fireplace; that partition was removed in 2010 and the north end of the mantel was restored (*Photos 43, 44*).

The Allin House remained in two-family use until 1951, although as of 1924 the entire dwelling was owned by a single family who lived in the east unit and rented out the west unit. The front and rear entryways and stairways were common spaces; designated spaces in the cellar and attic were allocated to the residents of each dwelling unit.

### ***Western Portion of the House, 1802-1924***

After Amy Allin’s death, the distribution of her dower lands was contested in the Bristol County Court of Common Pleas. In 1828, the Court determined that her property should be divided into sixteen parcels (*Map 4*) and distributed to the surviving Allin heirs. Amy’s one-third portion of the house was divided between two of her daughters: Nancy (Allin) Drown and Elizabeth Allin.<sup>28</sup> At an unknown date after that (no deed was found), Nancy transferred her portion to her sister Elizabeth, who lived in the dwelling unit on the west side of the house.

Elizabeth Allin (1787-1868) remained single until her fifties, when she married her cousin Allin Bicknell. (As his name suggests, the two families had intermarried in prior generations.) Bicknell was a widower with four sons; the youngest, Thomas Williams Bicknell (1834–1925), was ten years old in 1844 when his family “removed to the Gen. Thomas Allin homestead at West Barrington, the property of [Allin Bicknell’s] second wife.”<sup>29</sup> In 1857, Elizabeth and Allin Bicknell built a 1½-story west ell, adding 800 square feet of living space to their side of the house (*Figure 2*), perhaps to give their son Thomas a place to live while he began his teaching career.<sup>30</sup> The 1860 U.S. census for Barrington listed Elizabeth and Allin Bicknell living with their son Thomas W. Bicknell, a high school teacher; Nancy Smith, age 31, a “pauper;” and two farmhands, Charles Duncan, age 31, and Augustus Elbert, age 13. Some original interior fabric

<sup>28</sup> Bristol Co., R.I., Court of Common Pleas, Vol. X:266–271.

<sup>29</sup> Bicknell, *History and Genealogy of the Bicknell Family*, 173. A photograph of Elizabeth Allin Bicknell in her later years is inserted between pages 174-175.

<sup>30</sup> Bicknell, “Barrington Houses of Eighty Years Ago,” in *Barrington & Warren Gazette* [unpaginated], stated that the west ell was built in 1857; in this piece he also [incorrectly] stated the original date of the house as “probably in 1797.” Bicknell, *Genealogy of the Bicknell Family*, 481-482, indicates that Thomas W. Bicknell taught school in Rehoboth, Mass. in 1857-58 and obtained a master’s degree at Brown University in 1858-60; he married Amelia D. Blanding of Rehoboth and obtained a position as principal of Bristol High School shortly after his graduation in 1860. Rehoboth is about 10 miles from Barrington, so Bicknell’s workday commute would have been about one to two hours on horseback or by horse-drawn carriage. He would have had a shorter and much faster commute by train to Brown University in Providence and to Bristol High School (each about 6-7 miles away). The 1860 census data was apparently collected before Thomas and Amelia married that year, but the west ell of the Allin House would readily have accommodated the newlyweds.

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survives in the west ell, including the transitional four-panel doors and plain Victorian door trim on the second floor.

When Elizabeth Bicknell died in 1868, she left all of her real estate, including the western portion of the General Thomas Allin House, to her youngest stepson, Thomas W. Bicknell. By then he was no longer living in the Allin House (his own home stood nearby on a different parcel of former Allin farmland<sup>31</sup>), but he held on to this property for about five years. Thomas Bicknell had learned much of the Allin family history from his stepmother, which he chronicled in detail during his long career as Barrington's most prolific and influential historian of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.<sup>32</sup> Around 1909, Bicknell donated to the Rhode Island Historical Society a collection of General Thomas Allin's papers: personal letters and other documents illustrating the domestic, commercial, civic and military life of a successful gentleman-farmer of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1868 one of Barrington's earliest suburban plats had laid out a small grid of new streets (First Street to Sixth Street) and 117 house lots immediately to the south of the railroad depot (no longer extant) that stood on the west side of Washington Road near Alfred Drowne Road; that area and the depot, which was located about 0.15 mile south of the intersection of Washington Road and Lincoln Avenue, soon came to be called Drownville (*Map 6*).<sup>33</sup> In 1871 Thomas W. Bicknell, together with Eliza (Carpenter) Cooke and John Carpenter (both Allin descendants), and Joseph A. Chedel (who owned the eastern dwelling unit in the General Thomas Allin House), combined their respective acreages to create a development plat of their own, presumably in their own attempt to capitalize on the nearby train depot. This plat, modeled on a typical railroad/streetcar suburb layout, had about 310 narrow, rectangular, mostly uniform 5,000 sq.ft. house lots arrayed within a grid of new streets to the north and south of Lincoln Avenue between Washington Road and Prospect Street.<sup>34</sup> A two-acre lot on the north side of Lincoln Avenue near Washington Road was reserved for the "Mansion House," depicted on the plat map (*Map 7*) with mature trees and the recognizable footprint of the ca. 1769-1774 General Thomas Allin House with its 1857 ell. In the end, this ambitious real estate development scheme was not carried out as planned, perhaps because the demand for new housing at that level of density did not materialize. The suburban homes that were built in this plat between the 1880s and the

<sup>31</sup> The Thomas W. Bicknell House (ca. 1866), 220 Washington Road, is in the Alfred Drowne Road Historic District (NR 2005).

<sup>32</sup> Bicknell's works on Barrington included: *Historical Address and Poem Delivered at the Centennial Celebration of the Incorporation of the Town of Barrington* (1870); *A History of Barrington, Rhode Island* (1898); *Barrington Soldiers in the War of the evolution, the Dorr War, and in the War of the Rebellion* (1898); *Sowams, with Ancient Records of Sowams and Parts Adjacent* (1908); and "Barrington Homes of Eighty Years Ago," published serially in *The Barrington and Warren Gazette* in 1918-19. Bicknell also wrote a Baptist biography, the *Story of Dr. John Clarke* (1915); a 3-volume narrative *History of the State of Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations* (1920); two genealogies of his own Bicknell family (1880 and 1913); and at least one book of poetry.

<sup>33</sup> The Alfred Drowne Road Historic District (NR, 2005) encompasses part of this 1868 plat.

<sup>34</sup> "Plat of House Lots in Drownville Belonging to T. W. Bicknell, J. A. Chedel, John Carpenter, and Eliza Cooke" (drawing #000).

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1920s, in a variety of architectural styles, instead would rise on reconfigured and less uniform lots averaging about a half-acre in size.

In 1873, Thomas W. Bicknell sold the western portion of the General Thomas Allin House (including the west ell) to his cousin Eliza Cooke; subsequently, it passed to her son Thomas Cooke, her daughter Isabella (Cooke) (Burt) Wing, and Isabella's son Edwin F. Burt.

The 1895 atlas (*Map 8*) does not depict an accurate footprint of the Allin House, but the 1921 Sanborn map (*Map 9*) shows it correctly and in greater detail, including two north additions on the rear elevation of the main block near its northwest corner. Both were presumably constructed by one of the owners of the west dwelling unit during the previous 25 years. The Late Victorian-style multi-light wood windows on the west and north elevations of the larger north addition (*Photos 3, 4*) are original to its construction.

Between 1899 and 1921, a one-story porch was built across the front of the main block of the house, resulting in removal of the original Georgian pediment over the front door. This porch was not present in a ca. 1898 historic photo but did appear on the 1921 Sanborn map and in a historic photo from the 1920s-1930s (*Map 9; Figures 2 and 3*). Since the house was still in two-family use at the time, this porch was apparently built by joint agreement of both owners, and may have been used as common space. The historic photo shows the hipped-roof front porch with Queen Anne style details such as a center "pediment" above the porch cornice infilled with an ornamental sunburst detail, turned wood posts with jigsaw-cut paired brackets, and wood railings with turned balusters. The porch was removed and the pediment over the front door was restored in 1951 (*Figure 4*).

In 1924, Edwin F. Burt sold the western portion of the house to Manuel and Maria Cordeiro, who already owned the eastern portion of the house (see below).<sup>35</sup>

### ***Eastern Portion of the House, 1802-1908***

William<sup>5</sup> Allin, who inherited the eastern portion of the General Thomas Allin House in 1802, sold his property in 1807 to his brother-in-law Joseph Rawson. In 1830, Rawson sold it, with other parcels of Allin land, out of the family.

In 1854 Joseph A. Chedel, who was from Vermont by way of Providence, purchased the eastern dwelling unit and its associated lot. Though listed as a "farmer" in the Barrington censuses, Chedel was described in Providence censuses as a "storekeeper" and a mercantile investor in ship's ventures. He also bought and sold real estate in Providence.<sup>36</sup> As previously noted, in 1871 Chedel joined Thomas W. Bicknell and others in a plan to develop suburban house lots on part of

<sup>35</sup> Isabella Wing (1840-1923, according to Find A Grave.com) was the last known Allin descendant to be buried in the Allin Burial Ground, which subsequently passed into Town ownership.

<sup>36</sup> U. S. Census records, Ancestry.com; W.P.A., "Ship Registers and Enrollments of Providence, Rhode Island, 1773-1939," 1:696.

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the former Allin farm. After Chedel sold his portion of the General Thomas Allin House and the associated “mansion house lot” to George R. Viall in 1873, from then until 1908 the succeeding owners were descendants of the Viall, Peck, and Medbury families that had intermarried with the Allin clan a century or more earlier.<sup>37</sup>

In 1908, Emanuel (a.k.a. Manuel) and Maria Cordeiro purchased the eastern portion of the General Thomas Allin House and its associated “mansion house lot,” along with several additional acres nearby. Manuel Silveira Cordeiro (ca. 1868-1941) was a carpenter from Faial, Açores, who came to Rhode Island in 1887, married Maria A. Laurenz (1878-1976) in 1895, and became an American citizen in 1904. Manuel and Maria Cordeiro, also known as Manuel S. and Mary Lamb (“cordeiro” means “lamb” in Portuguese), raised fourteen children in the eastern dwelling unit of the Allin House.<sup>38</sup> Street address numbers were introduced on Lincoln Avenue around 1920: the west and east dwelling units in the General Thomas Allin House were numbered 20 and 22 Lincoln Avenue, respectively.<sup>39</sup> As his children grew up, Manuel Cordeiro personally built houses for some of them on adjacent or nearby parcels, including two bungalows at 164 and 168 Washington Road, about 100 yards northwest of the General Thomas Allin House.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Two Dwelling Units Under Same Ownership, 1924-1951***

When Manuel and Maria Cordeiro bought the western portion of the General Thomas Allin House from Edwin Burt in 1924, the entire house returned to single ownership for the first time since 1802. Although they continued to maintain the two separate dwelling units, one as their own residence and the other as a rental, the merger of the two lots on which the Allin House stood gave the Cordeiros sufficient acreage to subdivide the property and sell off a narrow lot along the eastern property line, where a Tudor-style house at 26 Lincoln Avenue (not built by

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<sup>37</sup> The Allin Burial Ground holds the graves of several Vialls, Pecks, and Medburys.

<sup>38</sup> Ancestry.com: immigration, naturalization, and marriage records. Manuel Silveira Cordeiro’s 1904 naturalization gives his birthdate as February 12, 1870, but in his 1914 U.S. passport application his birthdate was February 12, 1868. No “Emanuel,” “Manuel,” or “Maria” Cordeiro, living on Lincoln Avenue in Barrington, was found in the 1910, 1920, or 1940 censuses; nor were they found on the Find A Grave website in a search for Barrington and Bristol County, RI. However, a “Manuel Lamb,” carpenter, his wife “Mary Lamb,” both from Portugal, and their 7 male and female children aged infant to 13 were listed on Lincoln Avenue in Barrington in the 1910 census; and the same family, with 8 male and female children aged 7 to 23, was listed on Lincoln Avenue in the 1920 census. The 1930 U.S. Census listed Emanuel S. Cordeiro, a carpenter, and his wife Mary A. Cordeiro living at 22 Lincoln Avenue with their youngest eight daughters, ages 7 to 25, while the 1930 Barrington town directory listed Manuel S. Lamb, a carpenter, and Mary A. Lamb at 20 Lincoln Avenue. By the 1940 census, the family apparently stopped using the Portuguese version of their surname: the five youngest Lamb daughters, aged 17 to 35, were still living with their parents Manuel and Mary Lamb on Lincoln Avenue. Manuel S. Lamb and his wife Mary Lawrence [anglicization of “Laurenz”] Lamb were buried at St. Francis Cemetery in Pawtucket, R.I.

<sup>39</sup> The 1921 Sanborn map (Map 9) indicates the address as “108-112” Lincoln Avenue; that address was apparently short-lived, as it does not appear in other records.

<sup>40</sup> As communicated to Nathaniel L. Taylor by a Cordeiro descendant.

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Cordeiro) was erected in 1928. Thus, the lot on which the Allin House stood achieved its present 0.96 acre size.

The Cordeiros made several changes to the Allin House, probably executed by Manuel Cordeiro himself since he was a carpenter by trade (although he held other jobs at times).<sup>41</sup> Sometime between 1922 and 1951, the roof of the west ell was raised from 1½ to 2 stories, and the east addition was constructed (*Photos 1, 2, 5; Figures 2, 3, and 4; Map 9*). Inside the house, Cordeiro sought to level and insulate the kitchen floor by building up a shimmed fir floor on top of the original wide pine planks (filling the void with multiple issues of the *Saturday Evening Post* from 1916, which were discovered when the fir flooring was removed in 2010 to uncover the original flooring beneath). Cordeiro probably was also responsible for altering the first-floor fenestration on the north elevation of the house: a pair of horizontally proportioned 6-light wood casement windows in the north wall of the kitchen over the sink was present as of 1952 (*Figure 4*); these were later replaced with the present single-light slider windows fitted into the same opening (*Photos 4, 22*). Cordeiro probably also merged the two first-floor northeast corner rooms into one room, presently the dining room (*Photos 20, 21*), around the same time that he built the east addition; a 1952 *Providence Journal* article indicated that “a second living room, which might once have been a bedroom, occupied the right rear corner” (the dining room at that time occupied the front southwest parlor).<sup>42</sup>

In 1951 the widowed Maria Cordeiro sold the General Thomas Allin House to Robert and Ruth Burgess, who returned it to single-family use (it has had the address 20 Lincoln Avenue ever since) and embarked on a rehabilitation project intended to restore the house’s 18<sup>th</sup> century appearance. The 1950 census indicates that Robert Burgess was a social worker living in Providence with his wife Ruth and four children aged 1 to 8 at that time; town directories indicate that after the family moved to Barrington he continued in that field through at least 1954. In 1956 he was the Executive Director of the Rhode Island Heart Association in Providence, commuting from Barrington.

As reported in a 1952 *Providence Journal* article illustrated with several photos (*Figures 3 and 4*), the Burgesses removed the front porch and restored a Georgian-style pediment over the front door; they also replaced existing 2-over-2 double hung sash windows on the façade with Federal style 6-over-6 wood sash. Inside the house, they uncovered the original kitchen fireplace (which had previously been walled in and its original mantelpiece removed, date unknown) and restored the firebox opening to its original proportions. They eliminated the fireplace in the southwest parlor, removing its mantelpiece and covering the firebox opening with a lath-and-plaster wall (*Photo 18*), in order to install a modern heating system.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> In the 1920 census, Manuel Lamb was listed as a master mechanic in a leather mill; in 1940 he was a repairman in a fabric company.

<sup>42</sup> “They Settled for an Old House,” *Providence Sunday Journal*, February 3, 1952.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.* This article noted that “the first floor was in shape for occupancy” by October 1951 but there was still “plenty of work to be done on the upper floors.”

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Additional upgrades and alterations undertaken by subsequent owners have respected the historic architectural character of the General Thomas Allin House. Lawrence (Larry) and Barbara Rainey, the president and membership chair, respectively, of the Barrington Preservation Society at the time, and Mrs. Rainey's mother Arafina Frank purchased the house in 1976<sup>44</sup> and embarked on a rehabilitation project that included electrical, plumbing, and heating system upgrades, new roofing and exterior wall shingles, plaster and woodwork repairs, weatherstripping windows and doors, and installing insulation in the exterior walls and in the attic. (The insulation had no known impact on interior wall finishes). In addition, the Raineys "knocked out a wall between two small upstairs rooms to form one larger [bedroom];" this apparently referred to the northwest corner bedroom in the main block, where the flooring indicates the former presence of a partition wall dividing the space from east to west.<sup>45</sup> A 1980 newspaper article about the house did not mention any changes to the kitchen, but an accompanying photo shows a small paneled wood door on the right-hand side (concealing the rectangular bake oven and firewood storage) which did not exist in 1951; that door was replaced in 2010. The Raineys also likely removed the ca. 1802 partition wall in the kitchen. Another 1980 photo shows part of the inside face of the front door with the vertical boards, wrought iron hardware, and 18<sup>th</sup> century rim lock that are still present today (*Figure 5 and Photo 15*). Whether the Raineys introduced these elements or they were in place prior to their 1976 purchase of the house is unknown.

Most recently, in 2010 the current owners undertook some renovations designed by Lombard John Pozzi (1946-2013), a well-known architect based in Bristol, Rhode Island who specialized in preserving and rehabilitating historic buildings. Pozzi redesigned an existing in-law apartment on the first floor of the west ell that incorporated the southwest parlor and northwest corner rooms of the main block. He also reconfigured the second floor of the west ell by adding a short corridor and laundry room; and reconfigured the northwest bedroom on the second floor of the main block to create an extension of the back stair hall that connects with the west ell. These alterations had a larger impact on the west ell than they did on the main block, and for the most part involved portions of the main block that had previously been altered. The most significant late-18<sup>th</sup>-century features of the main block, including its massing, timber frame with exposed corner posts, five-bay façade, center-chimney plan, front stair hall, southeast parlor and chamber, five surviving fireplaces and two bake ovens, and many historic interior doors and trim elements, were carefully preserved. Alterations of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, which fall within the Period of Significance, were also respected, as noted elsewhere in this narrative.

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<sup>44</sup> Town of Barrington Deeds 117:943. "General Allen Homestead Refurbished," *Providence Sunday Journal*, April 23-24, 1980, noted that Barbara Rainey's mother "Fina" Frank lived in an apartment in the west ell.

<sup>45</sup> "General Allen Homestead Refurbished," *Providence Sunday Journal*, April 23-24, 1980.

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## CRITERION A: Social History and Ethnic Heritage/Black

The General Thomas Allin House is one of six surviving colonial-era houses in Barrington with a documented association with enslaved people of African heritage. It is illustrative of the Allin family's significant role as enslavers over several generations, as slavery thrived and then gradually diminished in Barrington over the course of the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

From the earliest years of English settlement, enslaved people of Indigenous and African heritage lived in Rhode Island. Legislation enacted by the colonial General Assembly in 1652 placed a maximum ten-year limit on the enslavement or indenture of any person regardless of race, and another statute in 1675 outlawed the enslavement of Indigenous people, but these laws were not enforced due to the high demand for a large and unpaid workforce. Historian Joanne Pope Melish noted that:

Colonists sought to relieve an acute labor shortage in the early decades by enslaving Indians – Pequot, Narragansett, and Wampanoag captives sold into slavery after the Pequot War in 1637 and King Philip's War in 1676. The women and children were sold to labor in English households in Rhode Island and elsewhere in New England, while most of the adult men – deemed too dangerous to remain in the New England colonies – were shipped to the British West Indies to labor in the sugar cane fields, where the average life expectancy of an enslaved person was five to seven years.... By 1700, as wars between Native people and English settlers became more sporadic and yielded fewer Native captives, Rhode Island colonists began to concentrate exclusively on bringing captives from Africa to meet their increasing demand for labor.

The first slaving voyage to bring captive Africans to Rhode Island took place in 1696, when a Boston ship, *The Seaflower*, brought forty-seven captives from the coast of Africa and sold fourteen of them in Newport. The first recorded slaving voyage to depart from Rhode Island took place in 1700 when three sailing vessels from Newport went to Africa and brought captives from there to Barbados.<sup>46</sup>

Rhode Island actively participated in the lucrative transatlantic slave trade throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, centered principally in Newport (until the Revolutionary War), Bristol, and Providence. Human trafficking supported a multitude of other commercial activities in the colony's thriving maritime economy, including banking and financial services, shipbuilding and related industries, and the production and transportation of manufactured goods and, especially, of agricultural commodities. "The massive plantations of the Narragansett region, including North Kingstown, South Kingstown, and Charlestown, supplied all manner of commodities to planters in the Caribbean and the American South, in particular livestock, hay, dairy products, beef, barrel parts, and salt cod, 'the staple protein sources of West Indian slaves.' Within this coastal region up to thirty-five families operated at least twenty-five plantations that

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<sup>46</sup> Melish, "*Rhode Island Slavery and the Slave Trade*" (unpaginated).



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ranged up to 5,760 acres, all of which were worked by enslaved Africans and Native Americans. At least twenty-two Rhode Island planters had ten or more enslaved persons each.”<sup>47</sup>

The lucrative economic benefits of the slave trade and of slave labor caused the population of enslaved African-heritage people throughout Rhode Island to rise quickly and dramatically during the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century:

While Rhode Island did not have the largest absolute number of enslaved people in New England, it had the largest percentage of Africans, nearly all of them enslaved, among its residents—6% of the population in 1708 had risen to an astonishing 11.5% by 1755, when only four out of twenty-five cities and towns in the colony [Glocester, Cumberland, Coventry, and Scituate] reported fewer than twenty enslaved people in its population. ... The presence of such a large percentage of enslaved people distinguished Rhode Island from the other New England colonies, where Africans never constituted more than 3.2% of the population.<sup>48</sup>

In urban and rural areas of Rhode Island alike, enslaved African- and Indigenous-heritage men, women, and children typically lived in the homes of white families and provided a variety of skilled and unskilled labor as well as domestic service. Their work included clearing and plowing fields, growing and harvesting crops, tending gardens, animal husbandry, making butter and cheeses, tanning leather, making and repairing tools, carpentry, masonry, spinning and weaving, cooking, other housekeeping chores, and childcare. In seaport towns, enslaved people also worked as rope- and sailmakers, artisans, coopers, blacksmiths, butchers, clerks, sailors, chimney sweeps, and rum distillers.<sup>49</sup>

By the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, enslaved people in Rhode Island were legally classified as property that could be bought, sold, and inherited, and any children of enslaved people were themselves automatically enslaved. A white person who enslaved a person of color could voluntarily free them through “individual manumission,” which often included a bond to provide for a freed slave’s future financial support should they be unable to support themselves. With severely limited employment opportunities, many freed slaves continued to work for and even live in the homes of the white people who had previously enslaved them, but over time free Black and Indigenous people established their own households and businesses.

The majority of Black people in Rhode Island remained enslaved into the early 1770s, when a gradual wave of change began that, seven decades later, resulted in the statewide abolition of slavery.

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<sup>47</sup> Grover et al., Section 8, p. 3.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Grasek et al, 12.

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In 1772 the largest religious group in Rhode Island, the Society of Friends, formally denounced slavery, igniting an abolitionist movement that soon spread outside of Quaker membership. Two years later, the General Assembly passed an act forbidding the permanent importation of slaves into the colony (although Rhode Islanders engaged in the slave trade could continue to reap their profits in other ports). During the American Revolution, a shortage of troops in the local and state militias prompted the General Assembly in 1778 to enact a law “permitting enslaved men to enlist in exchange for soldiers’ benefits and freedom after at least three years of service; their owners would be compensated for their value up to £120 and would no longer be liable for the support of their former slaves if they were to become indigent after the war.”<sup>50</sup> The Rhode Island First Regiment with about two hundred men of color fought in the Battle of Rhode Island in Portsmouth on August 29, 1778. Two years later, the First and Second Regiments combined into the integrated Rhode Island Regiment (the first integrated regiment in the Continental Army), which served until 1783. The promise of freedom at the end of military service was not universally honored, however; some Black veterans found themselves again enslaved when the war ended.

In 1784, inspired by the Declaration of Independence’s assertion of the “natural rights of man,” the Rhode Island General Assembly adopted the Gradual Emancipation Act. Those who were already enslaved would remain so, while children born to enslaved women would gain their freedom when they reached adulthood, at age 18 for girls and age 21 for boys (thus keeping them enslaved for the first two decades of their lives). Enslavers who manumitted enslaved people aged 21 to 30 were absolved of any future financial responsibility for them, but would continue to be required to support any older slaves that they might choose to emancipate. This legislation did little to make enslaved people free, but the growing abolitionist movement in Rhode Island and across New England resulted in more and more individual manumissions over the next several decades. The first Federal census in 1790 recorded 958 enslaved people in Rhode Island; in 1800, 380 enslaved; in 1810, 108 enslaved; and in 1820, 48 enslaved.<sup>51</sup> By 1840, there were five enslaved people recorded as residing in the state. Two years later, the new State Constitution formally abolished slavery in Rhode Island.

Constructing a history of enslavement in Barrington is challenging, requiring researchers to piece together incomplete information from a variety of sources, including census records, probate records, property assessments and even newspaper advertisements. In addition, such primary sources often fail to specify whether Black and Indigenous residents were free, enslaved or indentured, and rarely identify people of color by name. Nonetheless, it is clear that in Barrington, as elsewhere in Rhode Island, the enslavement of people of color began in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>50</sup> Melish, “*Rhode Island Slavery and the Slave Trade*” (unpaginated).

<sup>51</sup> “Slave, Free Black, and White Population, 1780-1830,” in <https://userpages.umbc.edu/~bouton/History407/SlaveStats.htm>. (Note that despite the title, the table only provides statistics through 1820.)

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Estate inventories from the 1670s-1690s, when present-day Barrington was part of the town of Swansea in Plymouth Colony, document the presence of enslaved African men, women, and children in the homes of several prominent families.<sup>52</sup> The earliest documentation of enslaved African-heritage people at the Allin farm (established in 1678) is from 1704, when Thomas<sup>2</sup> Allin (grandfather of General Thomas Allin who built the nominated property) purchased Felix, a “negrow boy,” from Benjamin Allen of Rehoboth (no relation) (*Figure 1A*).<sup>53</sup> When Thomas<sup>2</sup> Allin died in 1719, his estate inventory included “three negro slaves and one Indian maid servant,” none identified by name, collectively valued at £164.<sup>54</sup> (Despite the use of the term “maid servant” to describe the Indigenous woman, the fact that the inventory identified her as property with a monetary value indicates that she too was either enslaved or indentured.)

Thomas W. Bicknell’s *History of Barrington* (published 1898) provided some detailed observations about enslaved people in the town, and particularly about the Allin family’s role as enslavers, specifically Thomas<sup>2</sup> Allin and Matthew<sup>3</sup> Allin – the grandfather and father, respectively, of the General Thomas Allin who built the nominated property.

Bristol Allin, owned by Thomas<sup>[2]</sup> Allin, [grand]father of General Allin, came from Africa, some say, with his wife. They had two children, Pero and Tower.

Pero Allin lived on the Allin estate near the Providence River. He bought his wife, Orpha, of Col. Sylvester Child, of Warren, giving his note for value received. That proving worthless, his master was asked for the amount, but having no knowledge of the transaction, he refused payment. Their children were Tower, Jack, Adam, Henrietta, and Phillis.

Prince Allin's wife was Henrietta Brown. Their son was Pero, the fiddler. Pero's wife, Jenny, came from the coast of Guinea. They lived in Jenny's lane. She was a Christian woman, connected with the Congregational Church in this town. They had seven children, Hannah, Clark, Rhenkin, Stephen, Olinda, Mary and Lurane. Pero's mother, Writty (Henrietta), lived with them. His mother was " bred and born " in the old brick house, once standing under the big elm trees at the entrance to bridge lane.

Tower Allin married Phillis — little Phillis. They lived near the brook at Drownville and had one child, Nancy.

Tower Allin, slave of Matthew<sup>[3]</sup> Allin, appeared sick, and when asked the matter, told his master that he was love-sick and wanted Massa to buy Philissa to be his wife, which Allin

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<sup>52</sup> Stephen Venuti, “Slavery in Barrington, Rhode Island,” Rhode Island Slave History Medallion Project (rishm.org).

<sup>53</sup> Original deed, RIHS Library MSS 9001: Allin, Thomas. (Benjamin Allen of Rehoboth, the seller of Felix in 1704, is an ancestor of Nathaniel Taylor, co-author of this nomination.)

<sup>54</sup> Bristol County, Mass., Probate Act Book 3.2:579-80; Docketed Estate File Papers #00525.

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did. The two lived at Long Swamp corner, at the head of Drownville road, where Scipio Allin (alias Freeman?), afterwards lived.

The value of an able bodied man-slave in Rhode Island was from twenty-five to one hundred and twenty pounds. Matthew<sup>[3]</sup> Allin bought "a certain Negro Boy called Prince, about fourteen or fifteen years old," of John Usher, Jr., of Bristol, for three hundred and seventy pounds, current money, in the year 1752. As old tenor and real values were as sixteen to one, the market value of Prince was about £25, or \$125.

In 1742 Thomas Hill of North Kingstown sold to Matthew<sup>[3]</sup> Allin of Barrington "one negro girl slave named Felles (Phillis) about ten years of age; the said to have and to hold to the proper use and behoof of him the said Matthew Allin forever," for "the sum of ninety-five pounds of good and lawful money of New England."

In the estate of Matthew<sup>[3]</sup> Allin, probated 1761, appears the item of "4 negro slaves between fourteen and forty-five years of age."

The following receipt records the sale of a slave to Thomas<sup>[2]</sup> Allin: "Swansy, Aprill ye 11 day 1718 then received of Mr. Thomas Allin the sum of fifteen pounds and six pence being in part of payment for A negro boy Cal'd Shaxper. I say received by me, John Medbury £15, 0s., 6p."<sup>55</sup>

From these quoted passages (and others within these same pages, not quoted here), Bicknell's information about enslaved people appears to have been largely anecdotal, and frequently lacked specific identifying details that would help to distinguish different individuals having the same name from one another (it is not clear, for example, whether the various references to Tower Allin all relate to the same person). Bicknell also focused more on the Allins than on other leading slave-owning families in Barrington who were also related to the Allins by marriage, such as his own Bicknell ancestors, and the Tiffanys. (As previously noted, Bicknell was intimately familiar with the Allin family: his stepmother was General Thomas Allin's daughter Elizabeth Allin, and Bicknell lived in the Allin House from the age of 10 until about the age of 32 (i.e., from 1844 to ca. 1866) when he moved into his own nearby home built upon land that was formerly part of the Allin farm.) These flaws may be due in part to the fact that people of color, particularly enslaved people, were not well documented in public records of the colonial period, in Barrington or elsewhere in Rhode Island: when they did appear in primary source documentation, enslaved persons were often not identified by name, or were identified by first name only, and other data points such as birth and death dates, or family relationships, often were not mentioned. Recent research conducted by Nathaniel L. Taylor, co-author of this nomination and owner of the General Thomas Allin House, and by others under the auspices of the Barrington Preservation Society and the Rhode Island Slave Medallion Project, has filled in some information gaps (*Appendix 3*), but this scholarship is ongoing and as yet incomplete; as

<sup>55</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 403-408. All spellings verbatim.

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this work evolves, more information may come to light to provide additional historic context for the Allin House.

By 1748, one year after the borders between Massachusetts and Rhode Island were reconfigured and the town of Warren, Rhode Island (including all of present-day Barrington) was founded, a census of Warren identified 680 inhabitants, among them 50 Black and 30 Indigenous people.<sup>56</sup> That census did not distinguish between enslaved and free people of color, or provide any identifying data about them. At that time, Matthew<sup>3</sup> Allin owned the Allin farm. When he died in 1761, his estate included nine enslaved people, collectively valued at £6,700: Bristol (£800), Dick (£800), Jane/June (£400), Prince (£1,000), Tower (£1,000), Pero (£800), Philis (£700), Jack (£700), and Binah (£500). Notably, the labor of each of these enslaved people contributed to the Allin family's generational wealth, which the General Thomas Allin House embodies.

While Matthew<sup>3</sup> left to his wife Ruth Allin “one of my female negro slaves which she shall please to chuse,” the other eight were presumably included with the remainder of the estate that was divided evenly among Matthew's two sons, Thomas<sup>4</sup> and Matthew<sup>4</sup>.<sup>57</sup> As previously noted, when their father died the brothers were both in their late teens and not yet married, so they (and all of the nine enslaved people) probably continued to live with their widowed mother until each brother established his own household a few years later. At least some of the people enslaved by the Allin family took that surname as their own – a common practice.

No records were found regarding whether Thomas Allin purchased or sold any enslaved people after receiving his inheritance. But Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin placed an advertisement in a local newspaper in 1771, offering for sale “a likely negro girl, about 18 Years of Age, that understands all Kinds of Household Work, and Spinning.” (*Figure 1A*)<sup>58</sup> This dehumanizing commodification of a young Black woman who probably lived and worked in Matthew Allin's own home stands in sharp contrast to correspondence he later exchanged with his brother during the early years of the Revolutionary War, referring to enslaved persons in their households: in a letter dated July 22, 1775, when Matthew Allin was with the Barrington company at the siege of Boston, he requested that Thomas “remember my love to my friends, both white and black.”<sup>59</sup>

The first colony-wide census of Rhode Island in 1774 enumerated white, Black, and “Indian” males and females over and under age 16; it did not specify whether they were enslaved, indentured, or free. Each of the 29 cities and towns had Black residents, and all but two towns

<sup>56</sup> “History of Warren,” Town of Warren, RI website.

<sup>57</sup> Matthew Allin's will: Warren, RI, Probate Acts 2:224-27; original at RIHS, MSS 9001A, box 4. Matthew Allin's Inventory, Warren, RI, Probate Acts 2:236–37.

<sup>58</sup> Venuti, *Slavery in Barrington, R.I.*, on the R.I. Slave History Medallion website (unpaginated).

<sup>59</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 369 (original letter, R.I.H.S. Library, MSS 9001: Allin, Matthew). In a later chapter entitled “Domestic Slavery and Slaves” (402 et seq), Bicknell opined: “The affection between masters and mistresses and the colored house or farm servants was strong, and made a permanent relationship of reciprocal regard and personal interest not only possible but common.” Whether any enslaved persons in the three Allin households felt “affection and regard” for their enslavers may never be known.

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(Glocester and West Greenwich) had Indigenous residents, but the numbers of people of color as well as their percentage of the total population varied widely. Barrington ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in population with 601 residents, but it ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in percentage of Black residents (6.8%, representing 41 people), 8<sup>th</sup> in percentage of Indigenous residents (3.0%, representing 18 people), and 9<sup>th</sup> in total percentage of people of color (9.8%, representing 59 individuals) (*Appendix 2*).<sup>60</sup> Thomas<sup>4</sup> Allin's household included three Black men and two Black women, as did the household of his brother Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin. Their mother, Ruth Allin, had one Black woman in her household.<sup>61</sup> All together the Allins enslaved eleven people, or about 19% of the town's population of color. Moreover, their relatives the Bicknells enslaved ten people, and the Tiffanys enslaved six. Collectively, then, these three interrelated families enslaved 27 individuals, or about 46% of the town's population of people of color.<sup>62</sup> Each of these families also owned large tracts of farmland and utilized the forced labor of enslaved people to create and maintain generational wealth: a pattern illustrated by the General Thomas Allin House.

The "Roll of Honor – Barrington Men Who Served in the War of the American Revolution," recorded the names of eleven Black men: Richard Allen [*sic*], "free Negro;" and ten "Negro slaves:" Jack Allin, Cato Bannister, Pero Bicknell, Prince Brown, Scipio Freeman, Prince Ingraham, Pomp Smith, Prince Tiffany, Pomp Watson, and Prince Watson.<sup>63</sup> Two of these men had previously been enslaved by Thomas<sup>4</sup> Allin, but earned their freedom through military service: Richard Allin and Jack Allin. (These appear to be the "Dick" and "Jack" referenced in Matthew<sup>3</sup> Allin's 1761 will.) Barrington probate records indicate that both were deceased by 1781, when Thomas Allin became the administrator of their estates, consisting of promissory notes for back wages (and in Richard's case, prize money owed from service on two privateer ships, *Tracy* and *Adventure*; Richard's wife Patience Lawrence, an Indigenous woman, also had a claim on his prize money).

Another Black man on the Barrington Honor Roll, Scipio Freeman (ca. 1746-1816), who may previously have been known as "Scipio Richmond," appeared in the 1774 census as a head of household (*Appendix 2*), indicating that he was emancipated before the Revolutionary War (which may explain his change of surname); he apparently was one of two persons of color to have owned real estate in Barrington in the 18th century. (The other was Felix, enslaved as a child in 1704 by Thomas<sup>2</sup> Allin, who in 1719/20 sold to Ebenezer Tiffany nine acres of land

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<sup>60</sup> These census figures should be interpreted as estimates. Census data was collected from heads of households, the majority of whom were white; enslaved people would not have been asked to self-identify their African, Indigenous, or mixed heritage.

<sup>61</sup> This combined total of eleven exceeds the nine enslaved people that Ruth, Matthew<sup>4</sup>, and Thomas<sup>4</sup> had collectively inherited from Matthew<sup>3</sup>. How and when Matthew<sup>4</sup> and Thomas<sup>4</sup> each acquired one additional enslaved person is unknown.

<sup>62</sup> "The 1774 Census of Rhode Island: Barrington," *Rhode Island Roots* 33(2007):90–92. Thomas Allin was the enumerator for the census.

<sup>63</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 398-401. Note that the surname for Richard Allin was misspelled "Allen." On p. 408, Bicknell provided another list of 11 Black Revolutionary War soldiers, but several of the names are different.

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abutting land owned by the heirs of Thomas Allin.<sup>64</sup>) Scipio Freeman was one of six Revolutionary War veterans to be interred in the Allin Burial Ground (along with General Thomas<sup>4</sup> Allin, Captain Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin, and three other (white) Allin relatives), and was also the only one of Barrington's Black veterans to have a marker from the Rhode Island Society of Sons of the American Revolution placed upon his gravesite, in 1895.<sup>65</sup>

The Allin Burial Ground (R.I. Historical Cemetery #BA006) is located on Bay Spring Avenue east of Adams Avenue (*Map 1*), about a quarter mile west of the General Thomas Allin House. It contains approximately 100 graves of the extended Allin clan – including members of the Burt, Carpenter, Cooke, Drown, Medbury, Rawson, Viall, and Wing families – with burial dates ranging from 1719 to 1923. Although originally a family burial plot, the Allin Burial Ground is now owned by the Town of Barrington, and is not included in this nomination. The fact that Scipio Freeman was buried there in 1816 strongly implies that he had either been enslaved by the Allin family before the Revolutionary War, or was closely connected to others enslaved by the Allins.<sup>66</sup>

Census data reveals the gradual diminishment of both the total number of enslaved people in Barrington and the number of households in which they lived during the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (*Appendix 2*), though the primary-source data is incomplete. For example, the 1777 military census of Rhode Island, which tallied males in every household aged 16-50 capable of bearing arms, enumerated four Barrington households with a total of six Black or Indigenous men in that age range: two were in Thomas Allin's house, one in Matthew Allin's house, and two in Matthew Watson's house, while "Scipio, a Negro man" (presumably, Scipio Freeman) had his own household.

In 1779, Barrington property assessment returns tallied enslaved persons aged from 10 to 50 years old: again, four households were shown with a total of six enslaved persons (Scipio Freeman, who had been emancipated several years previously, was not among these households.)

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<sup>64</sup> Bristol Co., Mass., Deeds D5:[5-]9. No deed was found to confirm when and from whom Felix acquired this land.

<sup>65</sup> Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 401, 404, 408.

<sup>66</sup> It is possible that people enslaved by the Allin family were interred at Allin Burial Ground. A 2021 research project by students of Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, in partnership with the Rhode Island Slave History Medallion Project, completed a systematic review of available relevant records and narratives to establish the likely identities of several families and individuals of African, Indigenous, or mixed identity who were enslaved by, or descended from those enslaved by, the extended Allin family between the early 18th century and about 1863, when Adam Allin, the last documented descendant of those enslaved to the Allins, was buried there, (see Bicknell, *History of Barrington*, 569). A 2021 ground-penetrating radar study commissioned by the Barrington Cemetery Commission revealed the presence of 32 unmarked burials in Allin Burial Ground, with 21 unmarked burials surrounding that of Scipio Freeman. Additional research and investigation may confirm if these unmarked burials correspond with members of Freeman's family and/or people enslaved by the Allin family. "A Little Cemetery and the People who Made America," *Providence Journal*, September 14, 2010, B7; Kristen Black and Courtney Garrity, "Rhode Island Slave History Medallion Project: Barrington," History 429.81, Roger Williams University, 2021; Robert W. Perry, "A Report on the Ground Penetrating Radar Survey Bay Spring Road, Barrington, RI," May 25, 2021, Barrington Cemetery Commission.

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This assessment counted no enslaved people between 10 and 50 years old in Thomas Allin's home; whether there were any who fell outside this age range is unknown. His brother Matthew Allin still enslaved three adults between 10 and 50, while Samuel Allen, Edward Bosworth, and Matthew Watson each enslaved one. Again, whether these men enslaved anyone younger than 10 or older than 50 cannot be discerned from this assessment.

The first U.S. census of 1790 revealed that twenty Barrington households had a collective total of 44 "free non-whites" or "slaves." However, nearly half (19) of the free non-whites lived in four households also headed by free non-whites who had formerly been enslaved: Pero Allin, Prince Brown, Tower Hill, and Cyprian (i.e., Scipio) Richmond. Of the 16 households headed by white men where a combined total of 23 people of color lived, half (8) of those households still had "slaves." Thomas Allin had one "free non-white" person in his household, while Matthew Allin had two.

By the 1800 federal census (taken after both General Thomas<sup>4</sup> Allin and Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin had died), the number of Barrington households that included enslaved people had fallen to eleven, with a total of 26 "free non-whites" or "slaves" living in them. Five households held a combined total of six enslaved persons. Nearly half (12) of the free non-whites lived in the widowed Amy Allin's household in the General Thomas Allin House – far outnumbering any other. This dramatic increase from ten years earlier, when her and Thomas' households included one "free non-white" person, may indicate the presence of one or more family groups among the people of color living in her home.

Two years later, the General Thomas Allin House was subdivided into two dwelling units, one owned by Amy Allin and the other by her son William<sup>5</sup> Allin. Whether any of the twelve free people of color who had been living with Amy Allin continued to reside in either of those two households is unknown. Amy Allin was not listed in either the 1810 or 1820 federal censuses (although she lived until 1827), but her sons Thomas<sup>5</sup> and William<sup>5</sup> did appear in the 1810 and 1820 censuses: neither had any persons of color in their households.

The Period of Significance for Criterion A, therefore, is ca. 1769 to ca. 1800, representing the period of time from the earliest possible date of construction of the General Thomas Allin House to the last known documented reference to people of color, enslaved or free, residing there.

The Allin House is one of six surviving 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings in Barrington for which there is evidence of association with the history of slavery.<sup>67</sup> The others are:

John Martin House (ca. 1685, ca. 1750, ca. 1920s, 2004), 123 Massasoit Avenue

Samuel Allen House (ca. 1730 et seq.), 499 County Road

Peleg Richmond House (ca. 1734 et seq.), 18 Homestead Avenue

Joshua Bicknell House (1787), 63 Federal Road

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<sup>67</sup> Barrington Preservation Society research files.



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Ebenezer Tiffany House (ca. 1790 et seq), 263 Maple Avenue

None of these residences has yet been listed in the National Register, though some may be eligible based on their architecture or other areas of significance, including their association with the history of enslavement; further evaluation and research is needed. Such research may reveal information not only about Barrington's enslaved population at large but also about the individuals enslaved by the Allins, given the close ties among the town's wealthy families in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Rhode Island houses of the colonial era were constructed with readily available local building materials: timber, fieldstone, brick (after about 1700), and the lime needed for mortar. The wood post-and-beam frame, usually topped by a flank-gable roof, was held together by mortise-and-tenon joints fastened with large wooden pegs or iron nails; covered with vertical planks clad in wood weatherboard or shingles; and supported by a fieldstone foundation, with a cellar underneath. Window and door openings were cut into the plank framing. The earliest house typology in present-day Rhode Island, prevalent until about 1725, was the "stone ender," with a massive stone chimney in one end wall containing a huge fireplace with beehive oven in its back wall used for both heating and cooking. This evolved from a compact 1½-story, one-room plan ("the single room related in size to the sixteen-foot square of the old English bay"<sup>68</sup>), to 2- or 2½-story two-room and four-room plans by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Framing members were left exposed on the interior; a steep narrow winding stairway butted up against the chimney mass; and the few asymmetrically arranged windows were small leaded-glass casement sashes.

During the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, brick came into widespread use for chimneys (and as an exterior wall material, for houses in urban areas). The timber frame with pegged mortise-and-tenon joints persisted, topped with a variety of roof forms: gable, saltbox, gambrel, and hip. The center-chimney plan emerged as a more efficient means of heating, particularly in a larger two- to three-story dwelling where a single massive brick chimney stack could provide multiple fireplaces as well as radiant heat to the surrounding rooms on each floor. By about 1750 many houses were built with a five-room center-chimney plan: two rooms across the front of the house, with the stairway between them; and three rooms across the back, leaving only the rear corner rooms unheated. The center rear room on the first floor was typically the keeping room or kitchen, with a large cooking fireplace and a beehive oven. In the principal interior rooms, the structural framing and vertical board walls were covered by lath-and-plaster; framing elements that remained exposed were often encased in wood boards with beaded edges. Double-hung sash windows had multiple small panes of glass set within a grid of wood muntins; upper floor windows were set directly into the cornice under the roof eaves.

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<sup>68</sup> Downing, *Early Homes of Rhode Island*, 7.

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The Georgian style (ca. 1720-1780), which had developed in England during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and was rooted in the classicism of the late Renaissance and the extravagant ornamentation of the Baroque period in Europe, predominated throughout the American colonies until after the Revolutionary War. Its hallmarks included symmetry in massing, plan, and fenestration; wood and brick as the principal building materials; exterior ornamental trim at the cornice and around windows and doors; windows with eight, nine, or twelve panes per sash; and decorative embellishments on the interior, such as wall paneling and molded trim. The Federal style (ca. 1780-1820) retained many Georgian characteristics, but its windows typically had six glass panes within a grid of narrower muntins in each sash; and its decorative elements included urns, swags, and stylized geometric designs modeled on classical Greek and Roman precedents.

These new building practices and styles appeared first in Rhode Island's cosmopolitan seaport towns of Newport, Bristol, and Providence, and gradually spread to outlying areas. In sparsely settled, rural, predominantly agricultural Barrington:

The most typical and persistent eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century house form is the rectangular block, one or two stories high and two rooms deep, with one broad side or flank forming the main façade, a main entrance at or near the center of the façade, and a massive center chimney around which the rooms are arranged. ... This basic type can vary in façade arrangement and be covered with different roof forms ... the most common eighteenth-century was the five-bay façade consisting of a center doorway flanked by two windows on either side ...<sup>69</sup>

In the first census of the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in 1774, Barrington had 601 residents in 91 families. The 1790 federal census counted 683 inhabitants and 84 dwellings in the town. As of 1800, the population had increased by about 8%, to 650 residents; the number of families in 1800 was not reported, but if that number increased at the same rate, there were likely around 98 families in Barrington at that time. Neither census provides data on the number of dwellings in the town. At present, nineteen 18<sup>th</sup> century houses survive in Barrington (*Appendix 1*), ten of which, including the General Thomas Allin House, were built between 1700 and 1775.<sup>70</sup>

Collectively this group exhibits many of the variations on the 18<sup>th</sup> century typology described in the quoted passage above: in height (1- to 2½-stories tall), in roof form (gable, gambrel, saltbox),

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<sup>69</sup> Adams et al, 16

<sup>70</sup> One of the nineteen, the John Martin House at 123 Massasoit Avenue, has a late 17<sup>th</sup> century core. A twentieth building was not included in Appendix 1 because there is a lack of consensus as to when it was constructed, and it was also apparently built for mixed residential and commercial use: the "Geroge R. Kinnicutt Tavern and Stage Office" at 509 County Road. The Barrington Preservation Society plaque on the house (date of issue unknown) gives the date of the building as 1785. The 1993 Barrington survey publication (Adams et al, 59) identified it as a ca. 1840 Greek Revival structure built by George R. Kinnicutt, tavern keeper and proprietor of a stage coach line, which "replaced another public house that was owned in the late 1780s by George's father Joseph Kinnicutt." Whatever its true provenance, that building has been much altered.

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and in number of bays on the façade (three, four, or five). All of these houses have experienced some degree of exterior alteration, such as one or more additions, construction of a front porch, removal of the characteristic central chimney, and/or installation of windows, trim elements and other features representing later architectural styles such as Greek Revival or Late Victorian. There are two 18<sup>th</sup>-century Barrington dwellings already listed in the National Register, one being the Alfred Drown House at 13 Alfred Drowne Road (early 18<sup>th</sup> century, moved to its current site ca. 1830), a contributing building within the Alfred Drowne Road Historic District (NR, 2005), which lies less than a quarter mile southwest of the General Thomas Allin House.<sup>71</sup> A 1½-story, gable-roofed dwelling, it is the oldest house within a historic district that is otherwise characterized by dwellings of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and most of its colonial-era features were obscured by later alterations. The Allen-West House at 153 George Street in northern Barrington (ca. 1763; NR, individually listed, 2013) is a 1½-story, gable-roofed Georgian-style dwelling with an off-center chimney and a four-bay façade; it is the only 18<sup>th</sup>-century house in town that is still surrounded by extensive open space, and it is also an early example of a “square plan,” with three principal rooms of varying sizes arrayed around a triangular chimney stack, and a fourth smaller unheated room in one corner next to the main stairway.<sup>72</sup>

The General Thomas Allin House is an excellent, highly intact example of a pre-Revolutionary War house with later additions and alterations that reflect their respective time periods. The main block has a center-chimney plan, a nearly symmetrical five-bay façade, and a 2½-story hand-hewn timber frame pegged together with mortise-and-tenon joints and topped with a flank gable roof. The foundation and cellar are constructed of fieldstone. The south-facing main entrance, centered on the façade, has a Georgian-style surround composed of original fluted pilasters and a triangular pediment that was restored in 1951, its design based on a late-19<sup>th</sup>-century historic photo (*Figure 2*). The clapboards on the façade and wood shingles on the side and rear elevations, and the plain trim (cornice, corner boards, water table, window surrounds) are typical of a late-18<sup>th</sup>-century farmhouse. The Federal-style, six-over-six, wood double hung sash windows throughout most of the house are in-kind replacements, but five historic Federal six-over-six windows with molded trim survive on the second floor north (rear) elevation.

On the interior of the Allin House’s main block, numerous original and historic architectural features survive. Most of the flooring is wide plank pine or chestnut, most of the wall finishes are lath-and-plaster attached to vertical planks, while most of the ceilings are also lath-and-plaster. There were originally twelve framing posts covered with beaded-edge casings on the interior (all seen in *Plans 1 and 2*), although a few were covered over by later alterations, and the roof framing elements and pegged joints are visible in the attic. The original floor plan of the house, with seven rooms arrayed around a massive central brick chimney, and a secondary stairway at the rear, may indicate an adaptation of the typical five-room plan directed by the Allins’

<sup>71</sup> The historically variant spellings of “Drown” and “Drowne” in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Barrington were used in the NR nomination and reproduced verbatim here.

<sup>72</sup> Allin-West National Register Nomination, 2013

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requirements for their own household. The two front rooms on both floors originally conformed to the 16-foot-square dimension of the “old English bay” cited above, and the southeast parlor and southeast bedchamber retain those dimensions. The front stairway, with its intact Georgian-style moldings, newel posts, drop pendant and turned balusters, winds up against the chimney. Five of the six historic fireplaces survive, including the large cooking fireplace in the kitchen that contains two beehive ovens as well as a smoking chamber. The southeast parlor has a Rumford firebox, and ornate Georgian finishes including a full-height, paneled and molded mantelpiece, crown moldings, molded window and door surrounds, and molded baseboards. The southeast bedchamber has an intact, excellent example of a Federal-style mantelpiece with moldings, fluted pilasters and dentils, while the southwest bedchamber has an even more ornate full-height Federal mantelpiece with stylized geometric embellishments. Window and door openings in the second-floor front stair hall likewise have Federal-style trim. Many interior four-panel Georgian doors with original trim also survive in the house.

The west ell, built in 1857 after the house had been divided into two dwelling units, provided additional living space for Elizabeth (Allin) Bicknell, her husband Allin Bicknell, and their family. Originally 1½-stories tall, the ell was clearly deferential to and distinct from the main block, which was already nearly a century old. At the same time, exterior building materials complemented the architectural character of the original Georgian dwelling. Notably, the west ell utilized two innovations that came about in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and changed how wood-frame buildings were constructed: the balloon frame, and a stove-powered heating system. The Industrial Revolution enabled the mechanized mass production of standardized building materials, and in the decades leading up to the Civil War a new type of framing system emerged. The balloon frame utilized a variety of two-inch boards of varying widths (two inches by two inches, two by four, two by six, two by twelve), narrowly spaced and joined together with wire nails to form the principal horizontal and vertical framing members. Concurrently, the requirement to design a house around a massive chimney with multiple fireplaces for heating and one for cooking disappeared with the advent of the cast iron stove. Benjamin Franklin had developed an early wood-burning heating stove in the 1740s; that prototype evolved into a highly effective, efficient, and relatively smokeless device that was vented by a metal pipe attached to the chimney and required less wood for fuel. Chimneys grew narrower when multiple fireplace flues were no longer needed. The cast iron wood-burning heating stove became ubiquitous in American homes during the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as did the cast-iron cooking stove (invented by Isaac Orr in Philadelphia in 1800), and later the coal-burning stove (invented by Jordan A. Mott in New York City in 1833).<sup>73</sup> The enlargement of the Allin House’s west ell to 2 stories in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century maintained the ell’s deference to the original main block.

The other much smaller additions to the Allin House, two on the north (rear) elevation ca. 1895-1921, and one on the east side elevation ca. 1922-1951, reflected architectural trends of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, as seen in the two surviving late-Victorian style windows in the north addition, and the Colonial Revival style built-in cupboards inside the east addition. The

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<sup>73</sup> “Stove,” in Encyclopedia Britannica online.

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celebration of America's centennial in 1876 had generated widespread public interest in Colonial history, produced a new Colonial Revival architectural style, and inspired a historic preservation movement focused on identifying, preserving, and stewarding historic buildings and sites. In Rhode Island, preservation efforts during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century were largely focused on buildings of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and on structures and sites associated with the Revolutionary War. Restoration and rehabilitation projects were undertaken by national, regional, and local organizations such as the Society of Colonial Dames, the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, the Preservation Society of Newport County (founded in 1946 to save Hunter House in Newport, built 1756), and the Cocumscussoc Association (founded in 1949 to restore "Smith's Castle" in Wickford, built 1678 et seq).<sup>74</sup> At the General Thomas Allin House, the preservation-oriented rehabilitation project conducted in the early 1950s under the guidance of architectural advisor and master craftsman John A. Whorf of Barrington, retained and restored many historic exterior and interior features while introducing some carefully planned interior modifications that respected the house's historic architectural character. Subsequent owners have likewise acted as good stewards of this important building.

Barrington citizens have been actively engaged in historic preservation activities since the founding of the Barrington Historic Antiquarian Society in 1885. Its successor organization, the Barrington Preservation Society, has been working since 1965 to raise awareness and support through endeavors such as the plaque program which recognizes buildings (including the General Thomas Allin House) that are at least 100 years old. Yet within the past ten years, two contemporaries of the Allin House have been demolished: the James Bowen House (ca. 1770) at 24 New Meadow Rd., in 2013; and a ca. 1760 house at 68 Middle Highway, in 2018. These recent losses highlight the increasing rarity of colonial era homes in Barrington, such as the General Thomas Allin House.

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<sup>74</sup> Downing, "Historic Preservation in Rhode Island," *Rhode Island History* Vol. 35, No. 1, Feb. 1976, 14-15.

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Works Progress Administration. “Ship Registers and Enrollments of Providence, Rhode Island, 1773–1939,” Vol. 1:696. (WPA: Survey of Federal Archives, Div. of Community Service Programs, 1941).

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- \_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- \_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_ Other State agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Barrington Preservation Society Museum, Barrington, RI

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

Allin, General Thomas, House  
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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 42,024 sq.ft. (0.96 acre)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.747298 | Longitude: -71.339359 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927    or    ☐ NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property at 20 Lincoln Avenue in Barrington, RI consists of Assessor's Plat 17, Lot 356: a quadrangular lot on the north side of Lincoln Avenue containing 42,024 sq.ft. (0.96 acre) of land.

### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the nominated property encompass the entirety of the lot on which the General Thomas Allin House and its associated structures have stood since the lot achieved its present dimensions and configuration in 1928.

Allin, General Thomas, House  
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## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Nathaniel L. Taylor, property owner  
Street & Number: 20 Lincoln Avenue  
City or Town: Barrington state: RI zip code: 02806  
E-mail: nltaylor@nltaylor.net  
Telephone: 401-301-9968  
Date: December 23, 2024

Name/Title: Kathryn J. Cavanaugh, Historic Preservation Consultant  
Street & Number: 82 Larch Street  
City or Town: Providence state: RI zip code: 02906  
E-mail: kathycavanaugh82@gmail.com  
Telephone: 401-273-4715  
Date: December 23, 2024

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

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## Photo Log

Name of Property: General Thomas Allin House  
City or Vicinity: Barrington  
County: Bristol  
State: Rhode Island  
Photographers: Kathryn J. Cavanaugh  
Nathaniel L. Taylor (Photos #13, 18, 24, 27, 38, 39)  
Date of Photographs: September 9, 2024  
June 29, 2010 (Photo #27)  
November 13, 2010 (Photos #38, 39)  
October 3, 2024 (Photos #13, 18, 24)  
Location of Original Digital Files: Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage  
Commission, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, RI 02903  
Number of Photographs: 49

Photo 1: Exterior, view of the south façades of the ca. 1769-1774 main block (at right) and the ca. 1857 west ell (at left) of the General Thomas Allin House, looking north.

Photo 2: Exterior, view of the main block and west ell, the driveway west of the house, and the garage (NC) northwest of the house, looking northeast.

Photo 3: Exterior, view of the west and north (rear) elevations of the west ell (at right); west and partial north elevations of the main block (middle); and west elevation of the two ca. 1895-1921 north additions with shed and gable roofs (at left), looking southeast.

Photo 4: Exterior, view of the north (rear) elevations of the main block and the larger north addition, and a partial view of the north elevation of the west ell, looking south.

Photo 5: Exterior, view of the east elevation of the main block, the ca. 1922-1951 east addition, the post-1952 cellar stairway enclosure, and the north addition, looking southwest.

Photo 6: Exterior, view of the south façade and east elevation of the main block, east elevation of the east addition (at right), and south façade of the west ell, looking northwest.

Photo 7: Exterior, view of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. well with 20<sup>th</sup> c. well cover, situated in the east side yard of the house, looking south.

Photo 8: Exterior, view of the 19<sup>th</sup> c. well with 20<sup>th</sup> c. well cover, looking northeast.

Photo 9: Exterior, view of garage (NC), looking northeast.

Photo 10: Exterior, view of ca. 1995 swimming pool (NC) and north (rear) elevation of garage (NC), looking southwest.

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Photo 11: Interior, cellar of main block of the General Thomas Allin House, looking southwest toward the base of the center chimney (obscured by shelving units).

Photo 12: Interior, cellar of main block, deep niche (unknown function) in the west side of the base of the center chimney, looking northeast.

Photo 13: Interior, cellar of main block, small niche (unknown function) in the south wall near the southeast corner of the cellar. Similar niches can also be found elsewhere in the south wall and in the west wall of this cellar.

Photo 14: Interior, cellar of main block, stairs in the east wall near the northeast corner of the cellar leading up to the east side yard, looking northeast.

Photo 15: Interior, main block, first floor, entrance vestibule and front stair hall, looking southeast. Shows the interior face of the front door with ca. 1951 "colonial" vertical board panels and reproduction wrought iron strap hinges, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century rim lock.

Photo 16: Interior, main block, first floor, entrance vestibule and front stair hall, looking northeast. Shows the front stairway with original Georgian-style railings, newel posts and drop pendant. The closet under the stairs provides access to the smoke chamber in the center chimney.

Photo 17: Interior, main block, first floor, southeast parlor, looking southeast.

Photo 18: Interior, main block, first floor, southeast parlor, looking northeast.

Photo 19: Interior, main block, first floor, southeast parlor, fireplace on the west wall, looking northwest.

Photo 20: Interior, main block, first floor, former two northeast corner rooms combined ca. 1922-1951 (now a dining room), looking north.

Photo 21: Interior, main block, first floor, northeast corner rooms combined ca. 1922-1951 (now, a dining room), looking south.

Photo 22: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking northeast. The ceiling beam with beaded-edge casing in the foreground is the west chimney girt; part of the east chimney girt is also visible.

Photo 23: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking southeast. Both exposed chimney girts with beaded-edge casings are visible.

Photo 24: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking southeast. Close-up view of the fireplace with two beehive ovens, firewood storage, and whetstone (on the left wall of the firebox).

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Photo 25: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking east. Close-up view of the whetstone in the left wall of the firebox.

Photo 26: Interior, main block, first floor, northwest room (now the “north bedroom” of an in-law apartment), looking northeast.

Photo 27: Interior, main block, first floor, northwest corner room before 2010 removal of partition wall, looking southwest. The oak vertical planks of the partition wall that ran east-west (shown at left) match the oak vertical planks of the west exterior wall (shown at right), indicating that the partition wall was likely original.

Photo 28: Interior, main block, first floor, “passage” created ca. 2010 on the west side of the southwest parlor, looking northeast.

Photo 29: Interior, main block, first floor, southwest parlor (“south bedroom” of the in-law apartment), looking east. An original fireplace on the east wall of this room was eliminated in 1951 to accommodate a central heating system; the chair rail and baseboard were added at that time.

Photo 30: Interior, main block, first floor, southwest parlor (now the “south bedroom” of an in-law apartment), looking northwest. The doorway in the middle background is situated within a ca. 2010 partition wall that created a passageway along the west side of this room leading to other rooms of the in-law apartment in the main block and the west ell. The doorway at right is situated within a ca. 1802 partition wall that formerly enclosed a pantry along the north side of this room, and now gives access to a closet and through the closet to the kitchen.

Photo 31: Interior, west ell, first floor, “activity/dining room” (part of the in-law apartment), looking southwest.

Photo 32: Interior, west ell, first floor, “activity/dining room” (part of the in-law apartment), looking northeast.

Photo 33: Interior, shed-roofed north addition, first floor, “alcove,” now a mudroom, looking northeast.

Photo 34: Interior, gable-roofed north addition, first floor, “sunroom,” looking northwest.

Photo 35: Interior, main block, second floor, stair hall, looking northwest. Shows one example of the Federal-style trim found around all three doorways and one window in this space. The doorway here gives access to the chimney mass.

Photo 36: Interior, main block, second floor, southeast (master) bedroom, looking northwest.

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Photo 37: Interior, main block, second floor, southeast (master) bedroom, looking northeast.

Photo 38: Interior, main block, second floor, northeast corner rooms, looking northeast.  
Shows the original partition wall running east-west with a doorway cut out in 2010 to connect the present master closet (seen in foreground) with the master bathroom beyond; see Photo 39 for a detail view of the cut-out section.

Photo 39: Interior, main block, second floor, northeast corner rooms, detail of partition wall running east west that was cut out in 2010 to create a doorway; see Photo 38. Shows the original vertical plank wall structure of the partition wall, with applied lath and plaster.

Photo 40: Interior, main block, second floor, sitting room (now “master multi-use room”), looking northeast.

Photo 41: Interior, main block, second floor, sitting room (now, “master multi-use room”), looking southwest.

Photo 42: Interior, main block, second floor, back stair hall, looking northeast at partition wall installed ca. 1802 when the house was converted to 2-family use.

Photo 43: Interior, main block, second floor, southwest (“Widow Allin’s”) bedroom, looking northeast.

Photo 44: Interior, main block, second floor, southwest (“Widow Allin’s”) bedroom, detail of fireplace, looking southeast.

Photo 45: Interior, west ell, second floor, “center bedroom,” looking southwest.

Photo 46: Interior, west ell, second floor, “southwest bedroom,” looking southwest.

Photo 47: Interior, main block, attic, detail of pegged rafters.

Photo 48: Interior, main block, west end of attic, looking southwest.

Photo 49: Interior, main block, west end of attic, looking northeast.

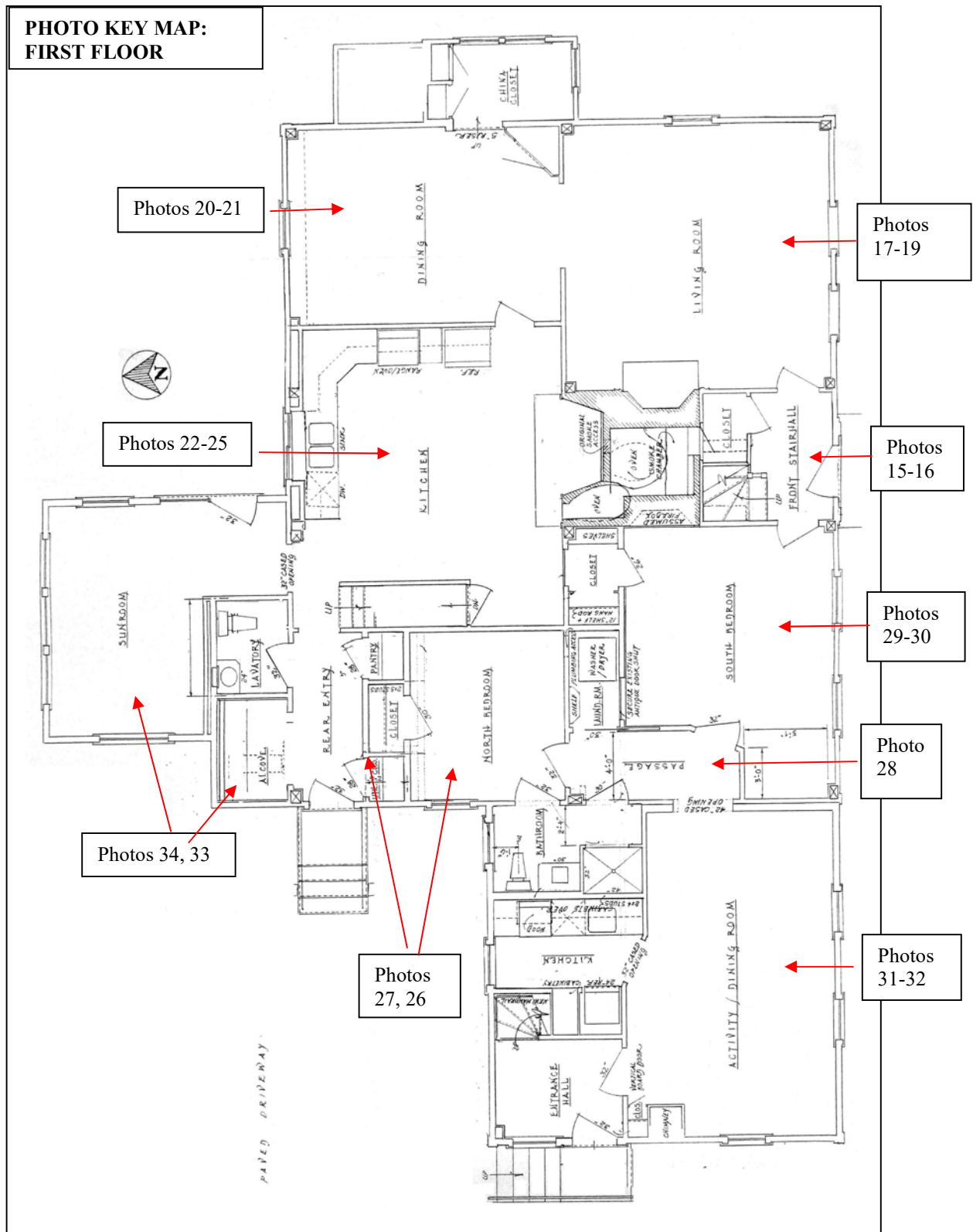
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



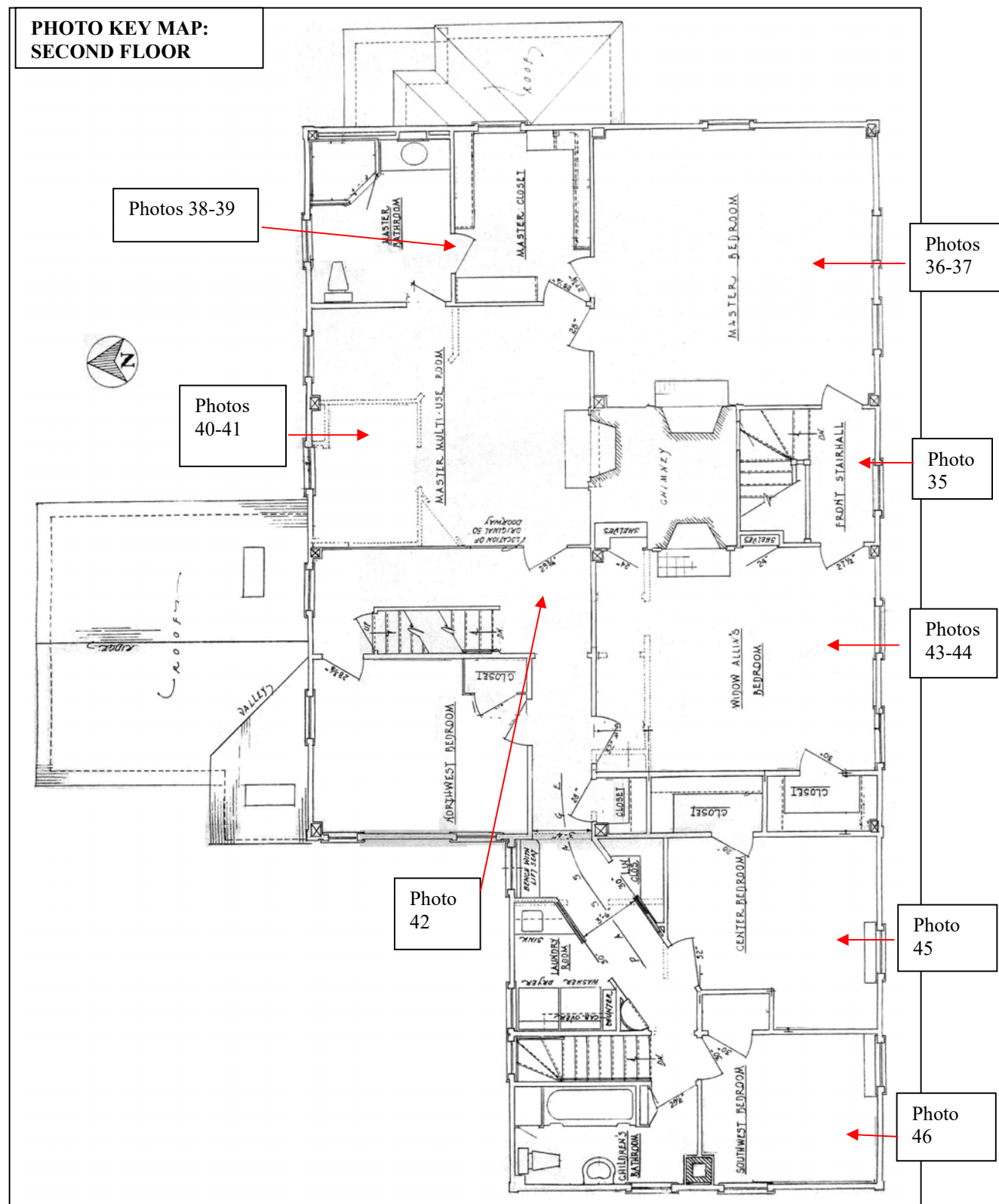
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Allin, General Thomas, House  
Name of Property

Bristol Co., Rhode Island  
County and State



## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

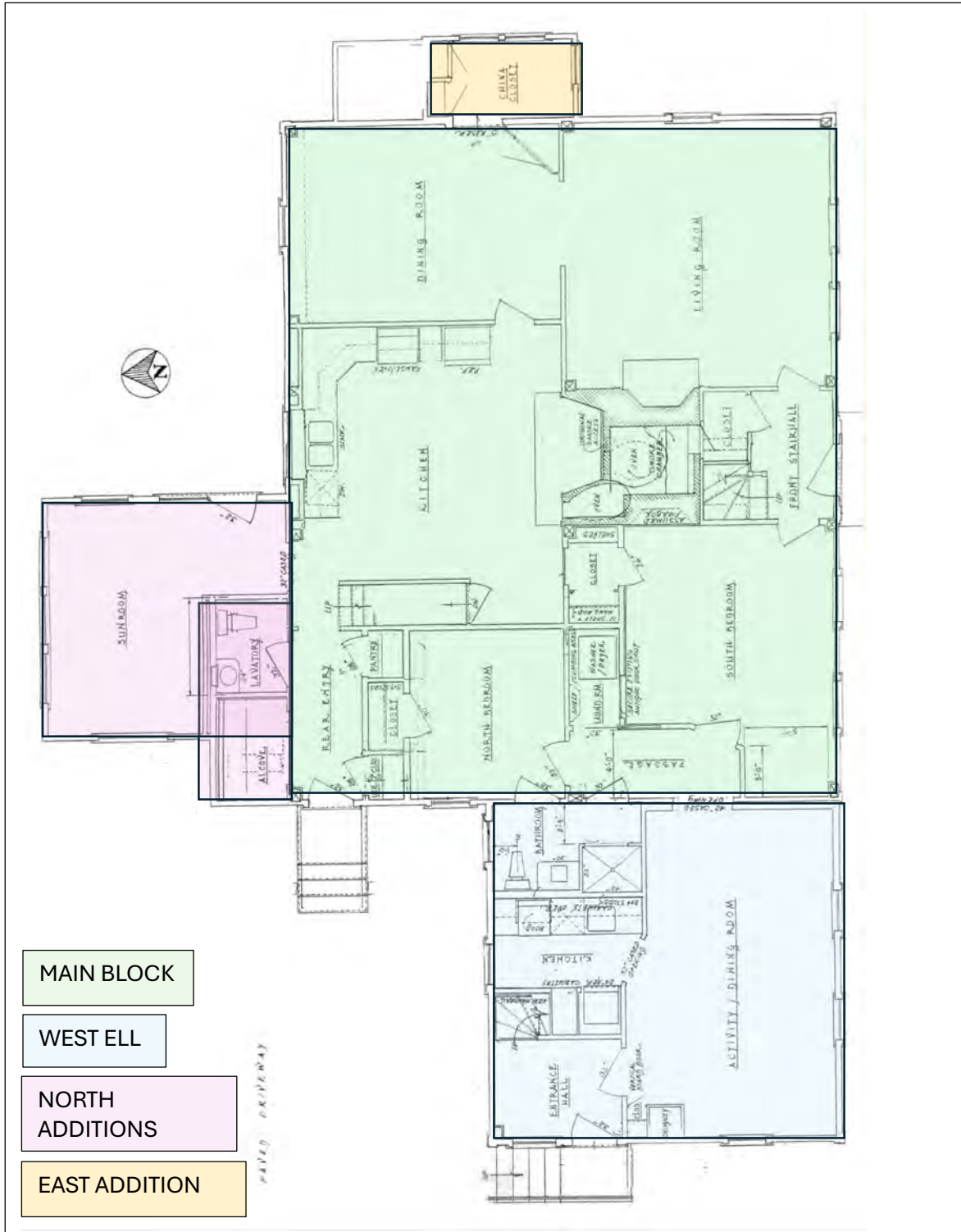
### **Plans, Maps, and Figures**

Plan 1	Allin House, First Floor Plan (2010)
Plan 2	Allin House, Second Floor Plan (2010)
Map 1	Allin House, Site Plan (2010) and Orientation Map
Map 2	Subdivision of Matthew Allin Estate, 1768-1769
Map 3	Subdivision of Gen. Thomas Allin Estate, 1802 (map drawn in 2020)
Map 4	Subdivision of Amy (Bicknell) Allin's Dower Lands, 1828
Map 5	Walling Map of Barrington, 1855
Map 6	Beers Atlas of Barrington, 1870
Map 7	Map of House Lots in Drownville Belonging to Thomas W. Bicknell et al., 1871
Map 8	Everts & Richards Atlas of Barrington, 1895
Map 9	Sanborn Insurance Co. Map of Barrington, 1921
Figure 1	Allin Family Tree
Figure 1A	1704 deed and 1771 newspaper advertisement related to the Allin family's purchase or sale of enslaved persons.
Figure 2	Allin House, historic photo of façade ca. 1898
Figures 3 and 3A	Allin House, historic photos of façade and of east and north elevations, ca. 1920s-1930s
Figure 4	Allin House, historic photos exterior and interior, 1952
Figure 5	Allin House, interior photos 1980

# PLAN 1

## Allin House, First Floor

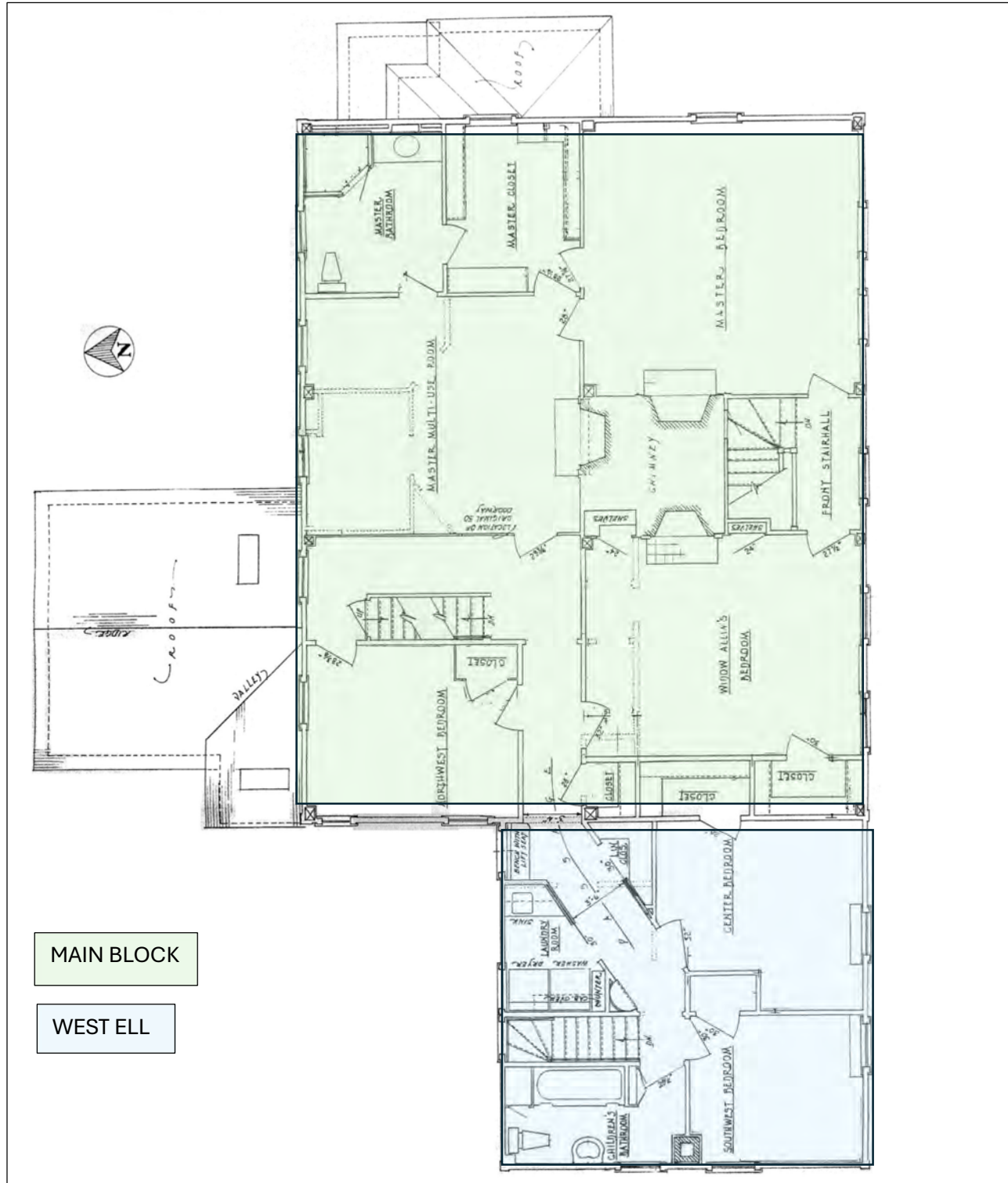
*Drawn by Lombard John Pozzi, Architect (2010)*



## PLAN 2

### Allin House, Second Floor

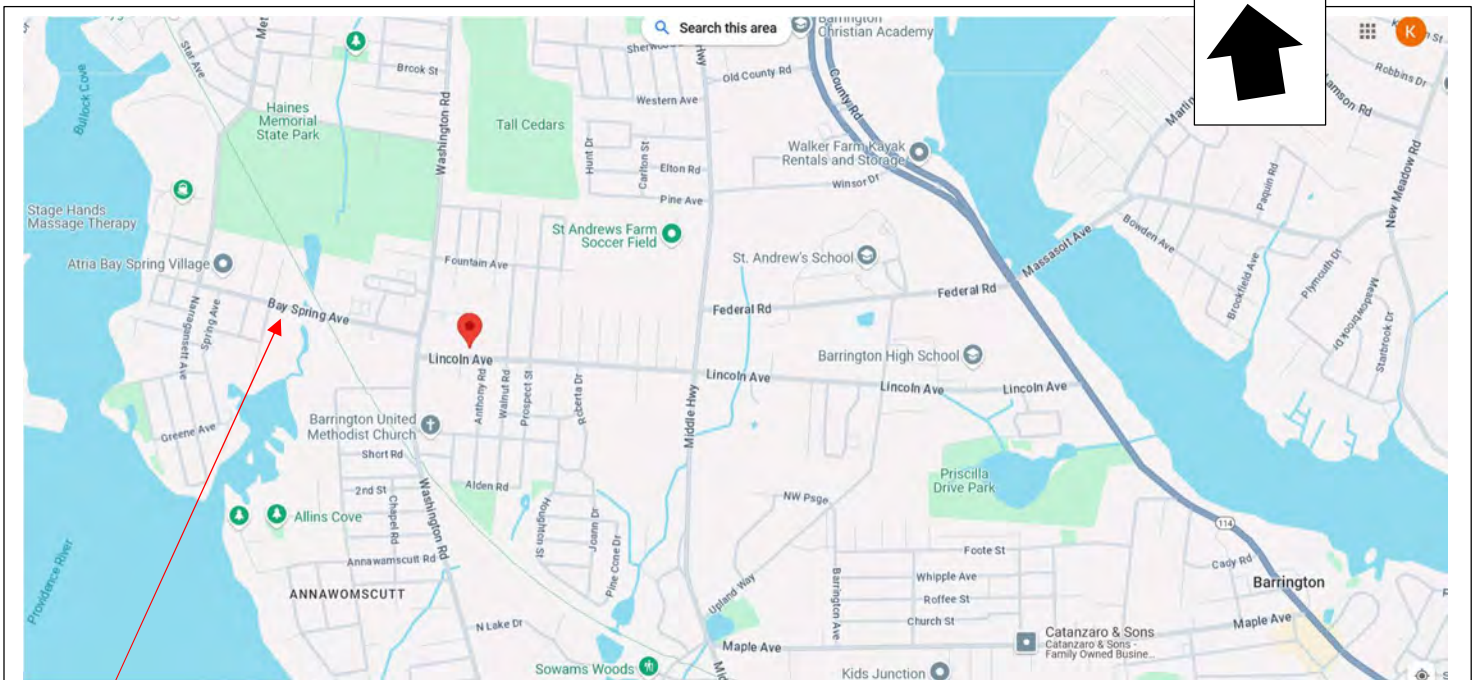
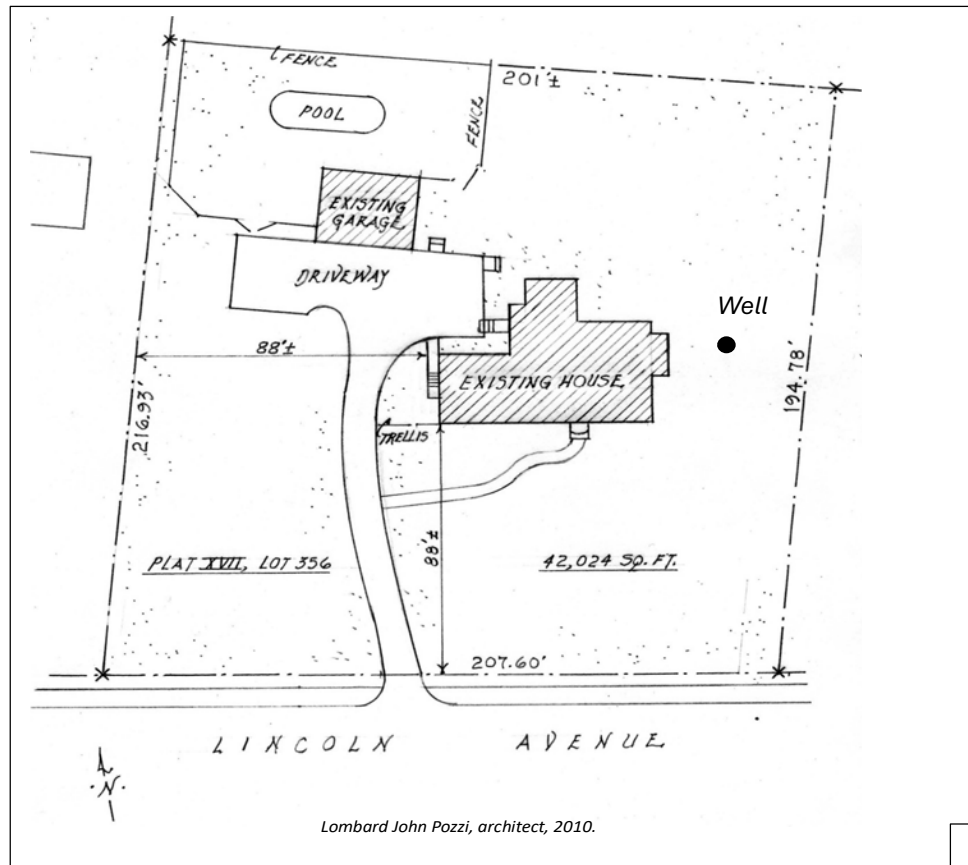
*Drawn by Lombard John Pozzi, Architect (2010)*





# MAP 1

## Site Plan and Orientation Map



**General Thomas Allin House, 20 Lincoln Avenue, Barrington, RI**

Allin Burial Ground, R.I. Historical Cemetery #BA006, lies south of Bay Spring Avenue about a quarter mile to the west of the house (not included in this nomination).

## MAP 2



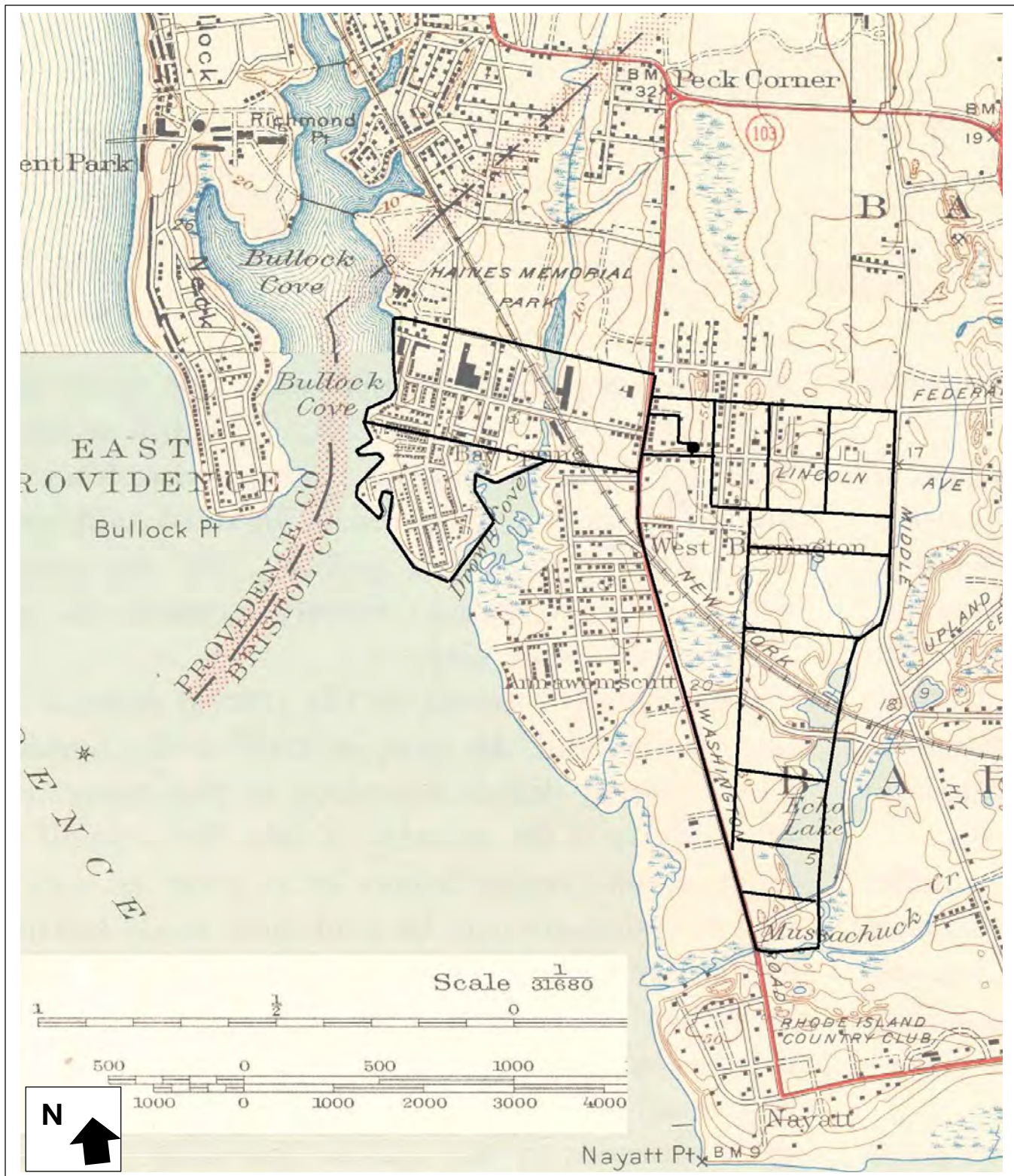
### Thomas Allin's survey plan for the division of his late father Matthew Allin's farm, October 1768 – May 1769.

The red star indicates the approximate location where Thomas<sup>4</sup> Allin built his dwelling house, ca. 1769-1774.

This map did not illustrate the locations of either the William<sup>1</sup> Allin House (ca. 1678, modified early- to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century), which Thomas's brother Matthew<sup>4</sup> Allin inherited; nor the Allin Burial Ground that had been established in 1719. The red box shows the approximate area where both of those properties were located.



## MAP 3

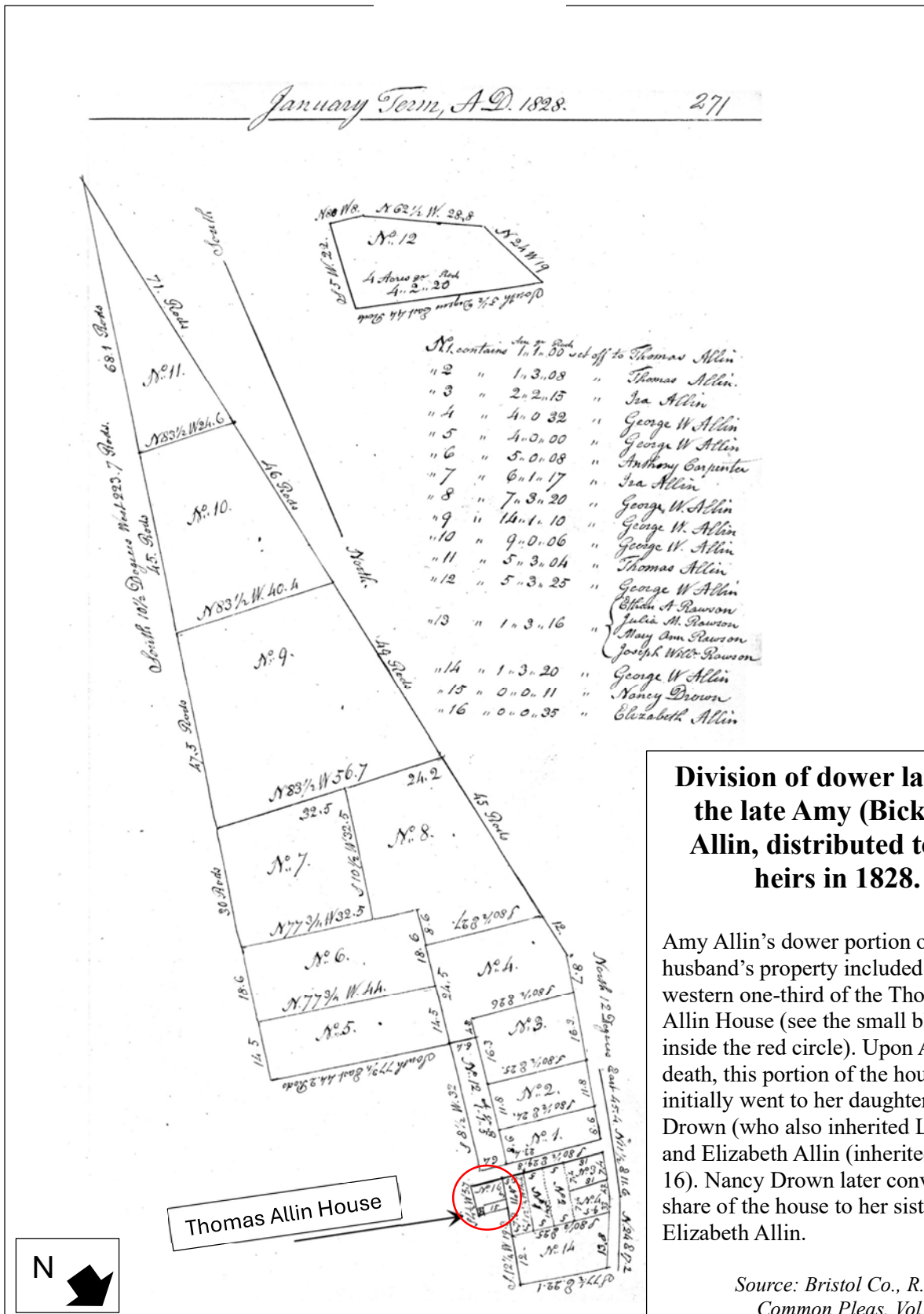


### Division of lands of the late General Thomas Allin, distributed to his heirs in 1802.

Sketched by Nathaniel L. Taylor in 2020 from metes and bounds (Town of Barrington, Deeds 2:354-58; Probate Acts, 3:69-75). The black dot marks the location of the Thomas Allin House. Background is USGS 7.5" sheet map.



# MAP 4



## MAP 5



### H.F. Walling Map of Barrington, 1855

Shows the Gen. Thomas Allin House on the north side of Lincoln Avenue, owned by "J.A. Chedel and A. Bicknell." Joseph A. Chedel owned the eastern two-thirds of the house, while Elizabeth (Mrs. Allin) Bicknell owned the western one-third. The Warren & Bristol Railroad opened in 1855, providing connections between Providence and the "East Bay" communities of Barrington, Warren, and Bristol, Rhode Island.

*Source: Barrington Preservation Society.*



## MAP 6



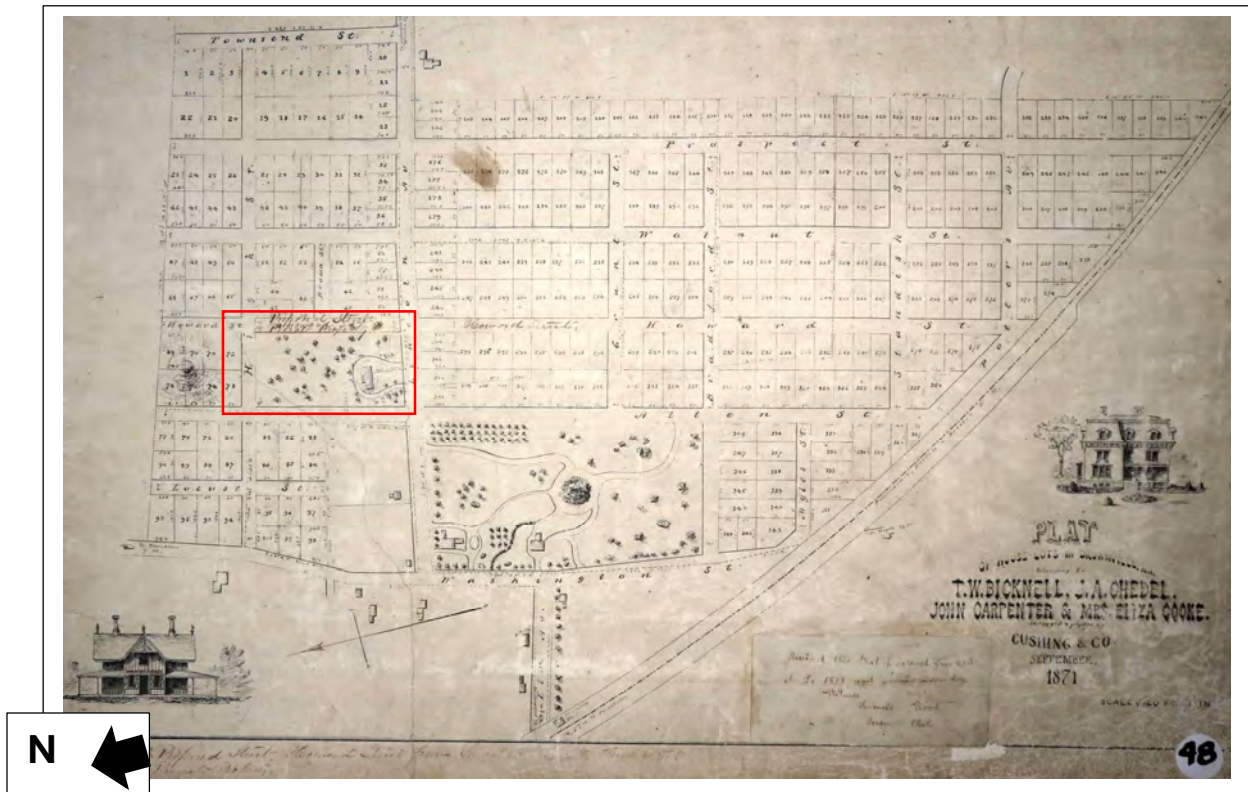
### Beers Atlas of Barrington, 1870

Shows the Gen. Thomas Allin House (red circle) on the north side of Lincoln Avenue, owned by J.A. Chedel. (Joseph A. Chedel actually owned just the eastern two-thirds of the house at this time; the western one-third was owned by Thomas W. Bicknell.) The red arrow indicates the location of the Drownville train depot (ca. 1855, no longer extant), near the intersection of Washington Road and Alfred Drowne Road, which served passengers traveling to and from Providence.

The grid of streets south of the train depot was the first suburban subdivision plat in western Barrington, recorded in 1868; part of that plat is included in the Alfred Drowne Road Historic District (NR, 2005). Thomas W. Bicknell, Joseph A. Chedel, and others recorded a development plat on part of the former Gen. Thomas Allin farm, on both sides of Lincoln Avenue, in 1871 (see Map 6).

*Source: Barrington Preservation Society*

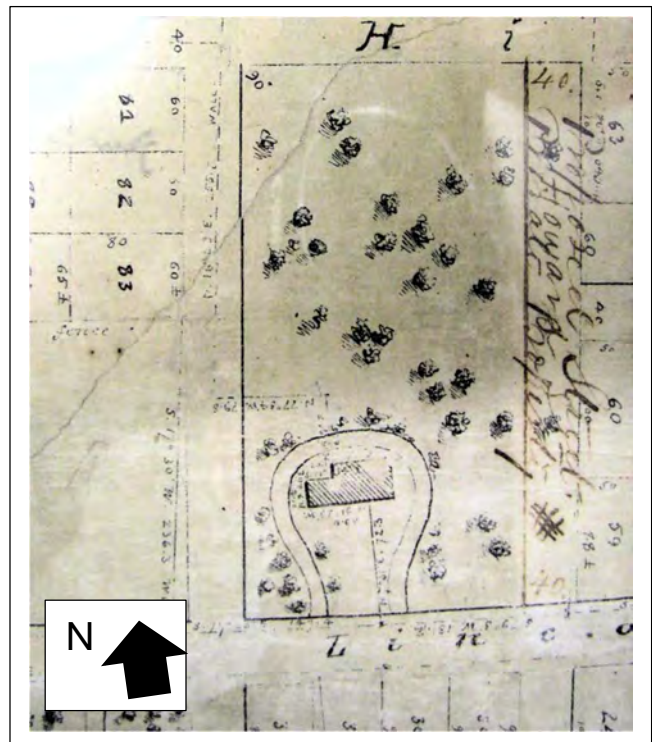
## MAP 7



**“Plat of House Lots in Drownville  
Belonging to T. W. Bicknell, J. A.  
Chedel, John Carpenter, and Eliza  
Cooke, Surveyed and Platted by  
Cushing & Co., September 1871.”**

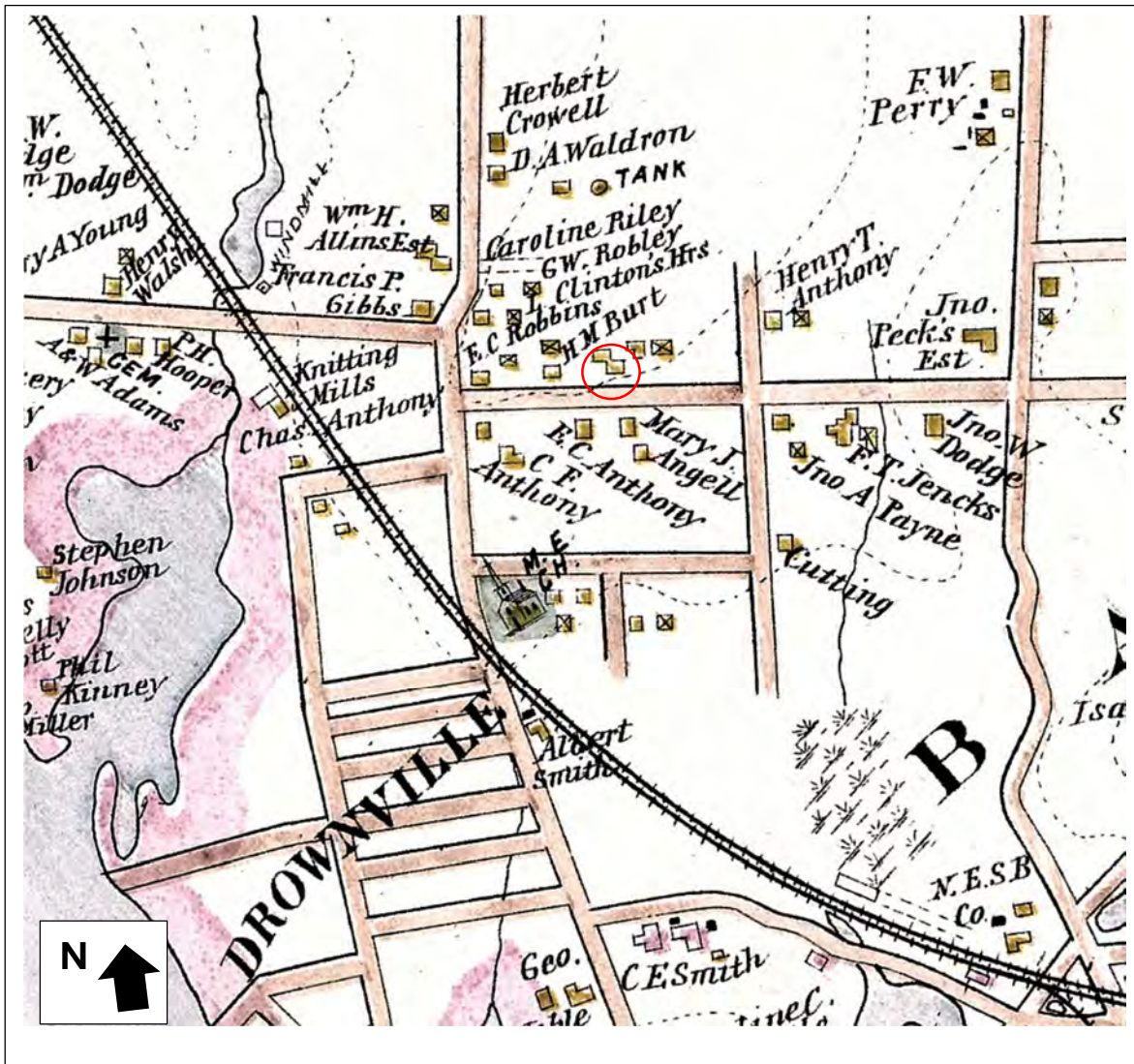
Shows the ca. 1769-1774 Thomas Allin House, with the ca. 1857 west ell, standing on the north side of Lincoln Avenue. A loop carriageway surrounded the house (no longer extant). No outbuildings were indicated, but there were numerous mature trees on the lot.

*Source: Barrington Land Evidence Records.*





## MAP 8

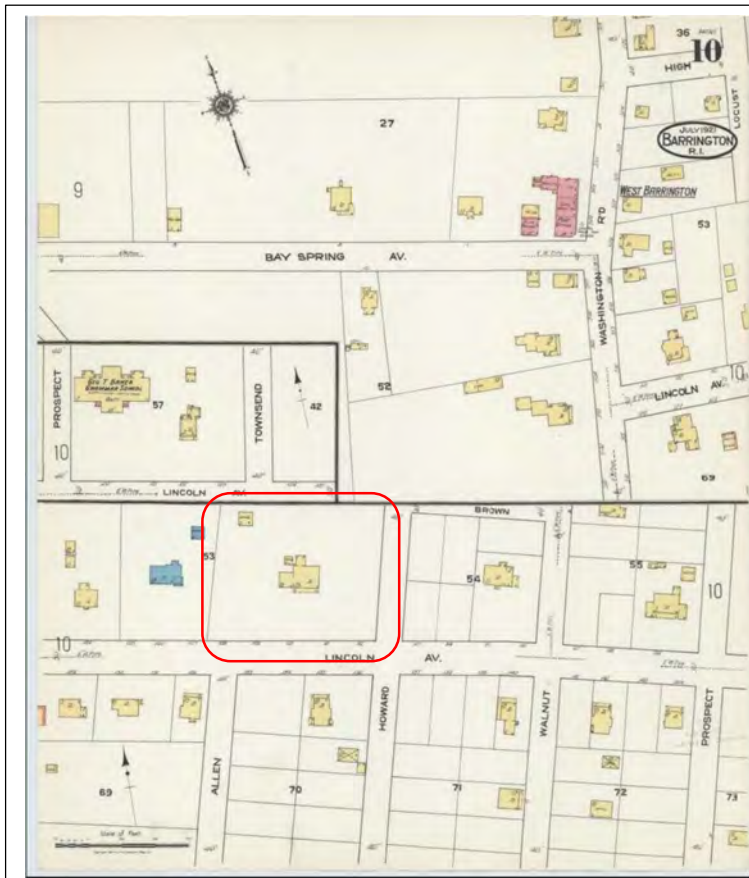


### Everts & Richards Atlas of Barrington, 1895

Shows the Gen. Thomas Allin House, with its west ell (although the footprint is incorrect), on the north side of Lincoln Avenue. At this time the west side of the Allin House was owned by Isabella (Cooke) (Burt) Wing and the east side by Clarissa (Peck) Smith. (The name H.M. Burt on this map appears to refer to the house next door to the west.)

*Source: Barrington Preservation Society.*

## MAP 9



### Sanborn Insurance Co. Map, 1921.

This map shows the Allin House as a 2½ story dwelling (“D”), with the 1½- story west ell (raised to 2 stories by 1951), a 1-story open porch across the front (removed in 1951), and the two north additions (still extant). The east addition had not yet been built. The two freestanding sheds were removed at an unknown later date.

Note that on this map, the property address is 108-112 Lincoln Avenue; as far as is known, that address was not associated with this house in any other records.

Also note that on the south side of Lincoln Avenue, “Allen [Road]” is presently Bernard Avenue, and “Howard [Road]” is presently Anthony Road, and it does not extend north of Lincoln Avenue. Walnut Road and Prospect Street today follow the same alignments shown here.

*Source: Library of Congress.*

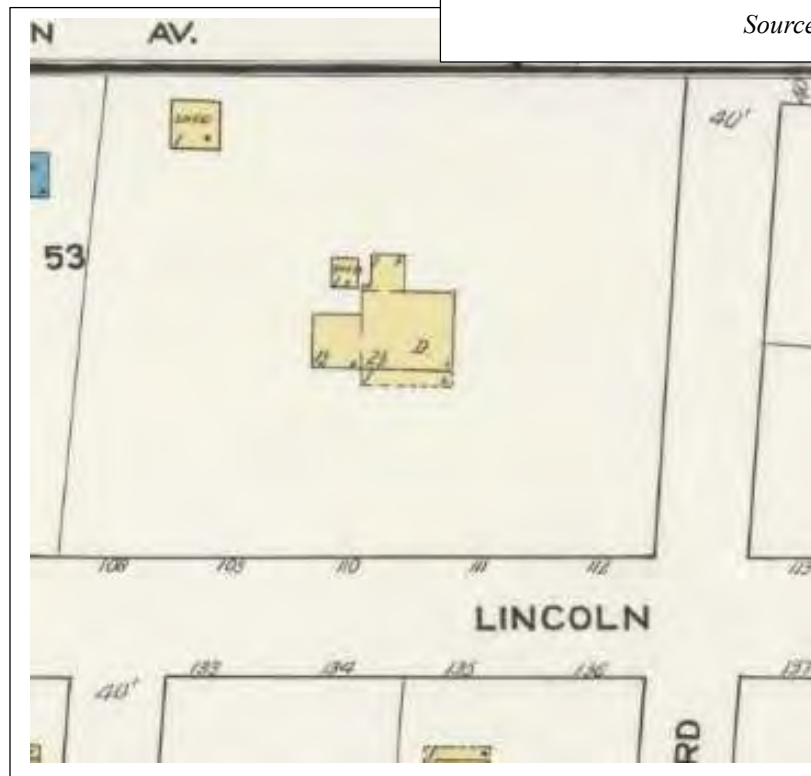


FIGURE 1

ALLIN FAMILY TREE

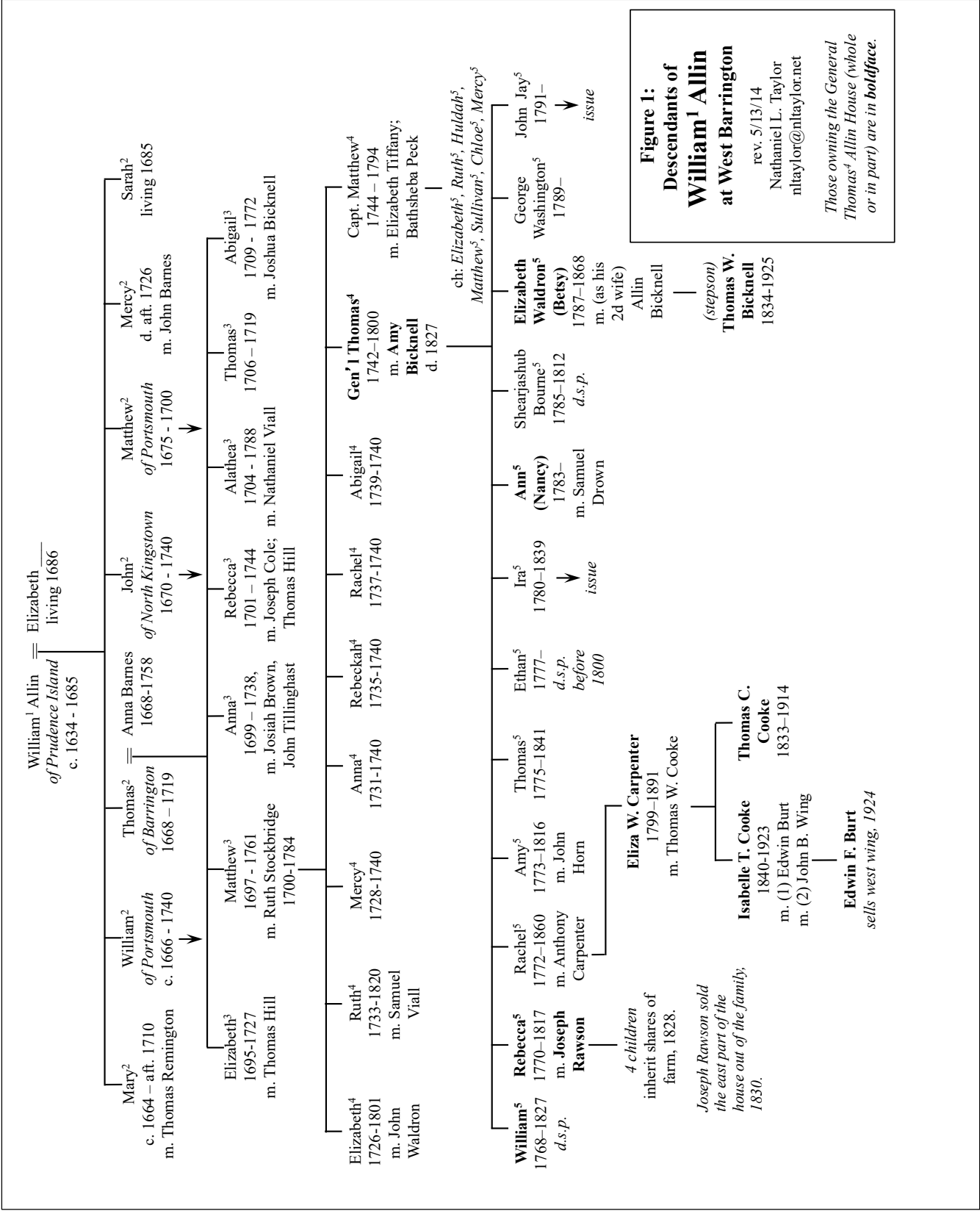




FIGURE 1A



Deed from Benjamin Allen of Rehoboth to Thomas Allin (1668-1719) of Swansea (grandfather of the Thomas Allin who built the nominated property) for the purchase of a “negrow boy named Felix” for 35 pounds current money.

Source: Rhode Island Historical Society Library, MSS 9001

Newspaper advertisement dated 1771 offering an enslaved young woman for sale, placed by Matthew Allin (1744-1794) of Barrington (brother of the Thomas Allin who built the nominated property).

Source: Slavery in Barrington, R.I., Rhode Island Slave History Medallion website [www.rishm.org](http://www.rishm.org).

TO BE SOLD,  
A LIKELY NEGRO GIRL, about eighteen  
Years of Age, that understands all Kinds of  
Houthold Work, and Spinning.—Any Person that  
wants to purchase her, may apply to  
MATTHEW ALLEN.  
Barrington, November 16.



**FIGURE 2**

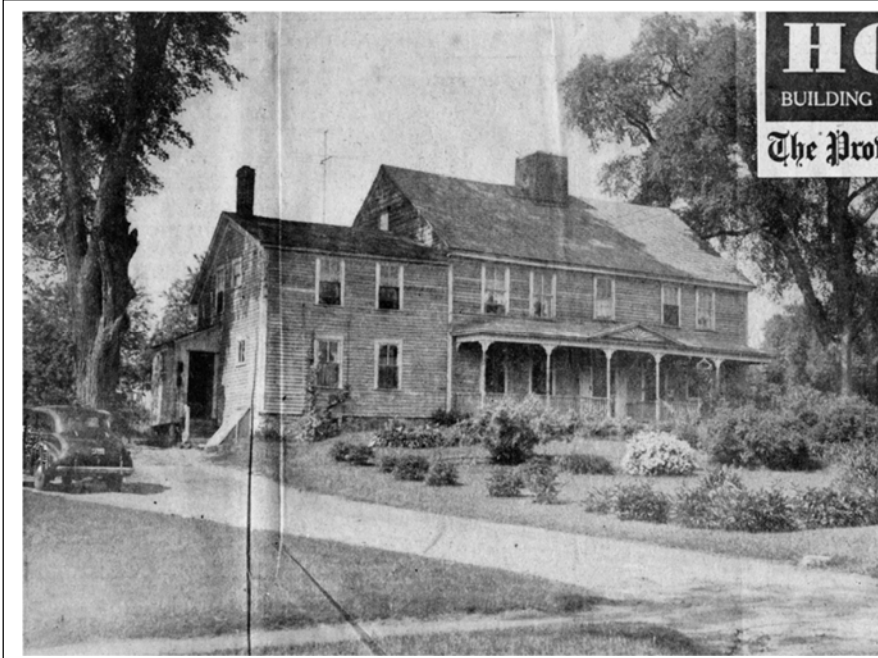


GEN. THOMAS ALLIN RESIDENCE, DROWNVILLE.

This ca. 1898 photo, looking north, depicts the west ell at its original height of 1½ stories (raised to 2 stories by the 1930s; see Figure 3). Some window sashes may have been 6/6 double hung sash at this time, but the photo is not clear enough to say for sure. Some windows are obscured by shutters.

*Source: Thomas W. Bicknell's "History of Barrington" (1898), opposite p. 344.*

**FIGURE 3**



**Top photo**, looking northeast, was apparently taken ca. 1930s given the style of the automobile. The west ell has been raised to a full 2 stories. The porch across the façade of the main block, built ca. 1899-1921, was removed in 1951 (see *Figure 4*). The entrance enclosure and the bulkhead on the side of the west ell were removed at an unknown date; the entrance enclosure is in approximately the same location as the present doorway on this elevation.

*Source: Providence Sunday Journal, February 3, 1952, Section V, pp. 1, 4.*



**Bottom photo**, looking northwest, also ca. 1920s-1930s, offers a clearer view of window configurations at that time: 6/6 and 2/2 in the main block (the house was still in two-family use at this time); 2/2 in the west ell.

*Source: Nathaniel L. Taylor personal collection.*

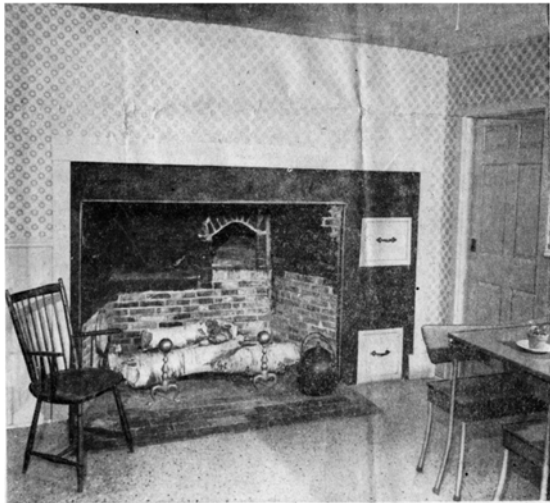
**FIGURE 3A**



East and north (rear) elevations, looking southwest, ca. 1920s-1930s. Shows the north addition before renovation, and the original fenestration pattern before pre-1952 alterations to the north elevation and construction of the east addition; and before post-1952 construction of the enclosed entrance over the cellar stairs.

*Source: Nathaniel L. Taylor personal collection.*

**FIGURE 4**

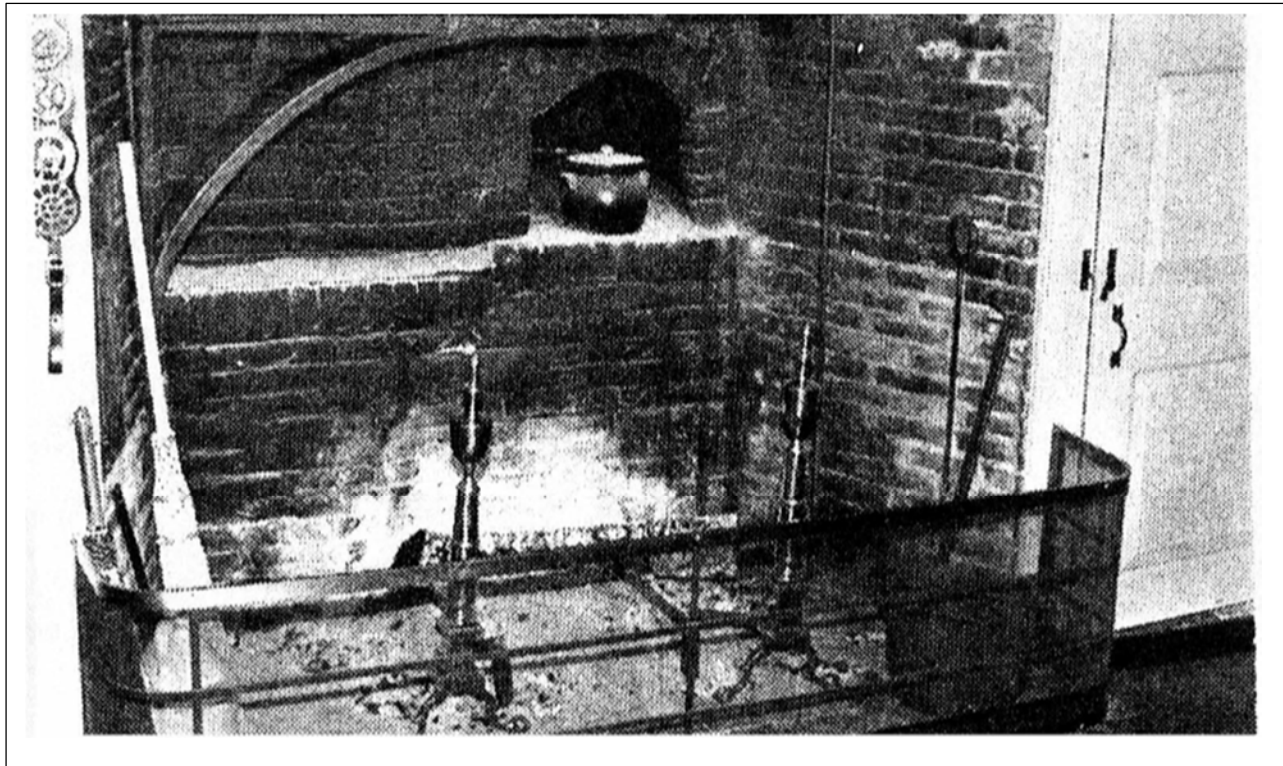


These 1952 photos depict then-recent alterations to the Allin House. Top photo, looking northwest, shows the east addition (built ca. 1922-1951; note the glimpse of a bulkhead behind it, later replaced by an enclosed cellar entryway structure), the front porch removed, the pediment over the front door restored, and the windows replaced with 6/6 wood sash. Bottom left photo, in the kitchen looking southwest, shows the firebox (with beehive oven, adjacent bake oven and firewood bin) restored, but no mantelpiece or overmantel niche; the partition wall at right in this photo was added in 1802 and removed after 1952. Bottom right photo, in the kitchen looking northeast, shows the horizontal window opening over the sink (centered on the rear elevation) infilled with paired 6-light casement sashes, later replaced with slider windows.

*Source: Providence Sunday Journal, February 3, 1952, Section V, pp. 1, 4.*



**FIGURE 5**



These 1980 photos offer a glimpse of two interior features of the Allin House.

Above (view looking southwest) is the kitchen fireplace, with a paneled wood door concealing the square bake oven and firewood bin to the right of the firebox. (That door was replaced in 2010.)

At left (view looking southwest) is part of the interior face of the front door, showing the attached mid-20<sup>th</sup> century vertical board finish, wrought iron Colonial-style hardware, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century rim lock, demonstrated by homeowner Barbara Rainey.

*Source: Providence Sunday Journal, April 23-24, 1980; Home & Garden section, pp. 6-7.*

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Appendix 1: Surviving 18<sup>th</sup> Century Houses in Barrington (as of September 2024)

Barrington has nineteen surviving 18<sup>th</sup> century houses, ten of which pre-date the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in 1776. To date, two of these houses are National Register (NR) listed. Twelve were recommended for further study and investigation to establish their NR eligibility in the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission's 1993 survey publication, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Barrington* (Adams et al; see Bibliography).

Historic names and dates reflect the most current research data in the Barrington Preservation Society's historic house plaque files; other names and/or dates that appeared in the 1993 Barrington survey publication are noted.

DATE (BPS Plaque)	ADDRESS	NAME	TYPE/DESCRIPTION	1993 SURVEY RECOMMENDATION /NR STATUS
ca. 1685 ca et seq (RIHPC survey: 1707, ca. 1750)	123 Massasoit Avenue	John Martin House	2-story, gable, stone-ender, enlarged to center chimney, 5-bay, Georgian.	Recommended; not listed.
"early 18th c."	13 Alfred Drowne Road	Alfred Drown House	1-1/2 story, gable, end chimney, 5-bay, Colonial, heavily altered in 19 <sup>th</sup> c. Moved to this site ca. 1830.	Recommended; <b>contributing property in Alfred Drowne Road Historic District (NR, 2005).</b>
ca. 1730 et seq	499 County Road	Samuel Allen House	2-story, gambrel, enlarged ca. 1938; much altered, original façade obscured.	Recommended; not listed.
ca. 1734 et seq	18 Homestead Avenue	Peleg Richmond House	2 story, gable, center chimney, 4-bay, Georgian.	Recommended; not listed.
1746	166 New Meadow Road	"Fisherman Shack" (Not in RIHPC survey)	1-1/2 story, gable, center chimney, 3-bay, Cape Cod; much altered.	Not listed.
ca. 1750	170 New Meadow Road	Benjamin Drown House	1-1/2 story, gable, 3-bay, Cape Cod; much altered.	Not listed.
ca. 1763 (RIHPC survey: 1794, ca. 1910)	153 George Street	Allen–West House (RIHPC survey: J.C. West Farmhouse)	2-story gable, center chimney, 4- bay, Georgian, with later additions.	Recommended; <b>individually listed, 2013.</b>
ca. 1769 - 1774	20 Lincoln Avenue	Gen. Thomas Allin House	2-1/2 story, gable, center chimney, 5-bay, Georgian/Federal, with later additions.	Recommended; nominated, 2024.
ca. 1770 et seq	484 County Road	Thurber-Miller House / Parsonage	2-1/2 story, gable, 4-bay, chimney gone; Georgian with late alterations. Moved to this site ca. 1800.	Recommended; not listed.

<b>DATE (BPS Plaque)</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TYPE/DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>1993 SURVEY RECOMMENDATION /NR STATUS</b>
ca. 1770 et seq	484 County Road	Thurber-Miller House / Parsonage	2-1/2 story, gable, 4-bay, chimney gone; Georgian with late alterations. Moved to this site ca. 1800.	Recommended; not listed.
1775 et seq	530 County Road	William Brown House	2-1/2 story, saltbox, center chimney, 3- bay, Colonial	Recommended; not listed.
ca. 1776 [?] (Recent BPS research indicates house post-dates 1796.)	385 Washington Road	Nicholas Cooke House	2-1/2 story, gable, center chimney, 5- bay, "Federal farmhouse attached to earlier 1-1/2 story Colonial house" (per RIHPC survey)	Not recommended; not listed.
ca. 1780 / ca. 1892	73 Ferry Lane	Thurber-Chapman House (RIHPC survey: "Samuel & Silence Bullock House")	2-1/2 story, gable, center chimney, 4- bay, Georgian. Moved to this site ca. 1892.	Not recommended; not listed.
1782	1825 Wampanoag Trail	Peleg Heath House	2 story, half-gable/half-gambrel, center chimney, 3-bay, Colonial. Very similar to 38 Old River Rd.	Recommended; not listed.
1782	38 Old River Road	Nathaniel Heath House	2 story, half-gable/half-gambrel, center chimney, 3-bay, Colonial. Very similar to 1825 Wampanoag Tr.	Recommended; not listed.
1786 et seq	125 New Meadow Road	James Martin House	1-1/2 story, gambrel, center chimney, 7- bay; enlarged/altered.	Not recommended; not listed.
1787	63 Federal Road	Joshua Bicknell House (now, Headmaster's house on St. Andrews School campus)	2 story, gable, 5-bay, Federal (per RIHPC survey).	Recommended; not listed.
ca. 1790	1723 Wampanoag Trail	Ebenezer Peck house	2-1/2 story, gable, center chimney, 5- bay, Georgian/Federal.	Not recommended; not listed.
ca. 1790 et seq (no BPS plaque)	263 Maple AveNUE	Ebenezer Tiffany House	2-1/2 story, gable, center chimney, 5- bay. Georgian/Federal; altered.	Not recommended; not listed.
1797	163 Mathewson Road	James Ingraham House	2-1/2 story, gable, 4-bay, Federal with Greek Revival alterations.	Recommended; not listed.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Appendix 2: 1774 Census of Rhode Island

The first colony-wide census provided statistics for White, Black, and “Indian” residents, as well as total families, for each town.

This chart lists the 29 towns in order of total population. Although Barrington ranked 27<sup>th</sup> in population, it ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in percentage of Blacks, and 9<sup>th</sup> in total percentage of People of Color.

Town	Total Pop.	Total Families	Whites	Blacks	Indigenous	Total % P.O.C.
Newport	9,208	1,590	7,917	1,246 (13.5%)	46 (0.5%)	14.0%
Providence	4,321	655	3,950	393 (9%)	68 (1.6%)	10.6%
Scituate	3,601	561	3,538	55 (1.5%)	8 (0.2%)	1.7%
Glocester	2,945	525	2,926	19 (0.6%)	0	0.6%
Smithfield	2,888	476	2,814	51 (1.8%)	23 (0.8%)	2.6%
South Kingstown	2,835	364	2,185	440 (15.5%)	210 (7.4%)	22.9%
North Kingstown	2,472	361	2,182	211 (8.5%)	79 (3.2%)	11.7%
Warwick	2,438	353	2,161	89 (3.7%)	88 (3.6%)	7.3%
Coventry	2,023	274	1,992	20 (1.0%)	11 (0.5%)	1.5%
Tiverton	1,956	298	418	95 (4.9%)	71 (3.6%)	8.5%
Exeter	1,864	289	1,780	67 (3.6%)	17 (0.9%)	4.5%
Cranston	1,861	340	1,782	60 (3.2%)	19 (1.0%)	4.2%
Charlestown	1,821	307	1,211	52 (2.9%)	528 (29%)*	31.2%
Westerly	1,812	257	1,706	69 (3.8%)	37 (2.0%)	5.8%
Hopkinton	1,808	299	1,739	48 (2.7%)	21 (1.2%)	3.9%
West Greenwich	1,764	304	1,745	19 (1.1%)	0	1.1%
Cumberland	1,756	264	1,736	17 (1.0%)	3 (0.2%)	1.2%
East Greenwich	1,663	275	1,563	69 (4.2%)	31 (1.9%)	6.1%
Portsmouth	1,512	220	1,369	122 (8.1%)	21 (1.4%)	9.5%
Richmond	1,257	189	1,213	21 (1.0%)	20 (1.6%)	2.6%
Little Compton	1,232	218	1,160	47 (3.8%)	25 (2.0%)	5.8%
Bristol	1,209	197	1,079	114 (9.4%)	16 (1.3%)	10.7%
Johnston	1,031	167	957	65 (6.3%)	9 (0.9%)	7.2%
Warren	979	168	928	44 (4.5%)	7 (0.7%)	5.2%
Middletown	881	123	801	61 (6.9%)	13 (1.5%)	8.4%
North Providence	830	138	792	31 (3.7%)	7 (0.84%)	4.5%
<b>Barrington</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>41 (6.8%)</b>	<b>18 (3.0%)</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
New Shoreham	575	75	469	55 (9.6%)	51 (8.7%)	18.3%
Jamestown	563	69	400	131 (23.3%)	32 (5.7%)	29.0%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59,707</b>	<b>9,450</b>	<b>54,460</b>	<b>3,668 (6.1%)</b>	<b>1,479 (2.5%)</b>	<b>8.6%</b>

*\*The Narragansett Reservation is in Charlestown.*



## Slaveholding Households in Barrington in 1774

The census did not identify persons of color as enslaved, indentured, or free, but those who lived in White households are presumed to have been enslaved.

Head of Household	Number	Details
Allin, Thomas	5	3 Black males over 16; 2 Black females over 16
Allin, Matthew	5	3 Black males over 16; 2 Black females over 16
Allin, widow Ruth	1	1 Black female over 16
Allen, Joseph Jr.	1	1 Indian female under 16
Adams, Nudigate	1	1 Black male over 16
Bicknell, Joshua	3	1 Black male over 16, 1 Black male under 16, 1 Black female over 16
Bicknell, Asa	3	2 Black males under 16, 1 Black female under 16
Bicknell, widow Rachel	4	1 Black male under 16, 1 Black female over 16, 2 Black females under 16
Brown, James	8	1 Black male over 16, 1 Black male under 16, 1 Black female over 16, 1 Indian male under 16, 1 Indian female under 16, 3 Indian females over 16
Bosworth, Edward	2	1 Black male over 16, 1 Black female over 16
Humphrey, Elkanah	1	1 Black male under 16
Killey, John	1	1 Black male over 16
Low, Hooker	1	1 Black male under 16
Martin, John	1	1 Black male under 16
Smith, widow Sarah	1	1 Indian female under 16
Tiffany, widow Esther	1	1 Black male over 16
Tiffany, Hezekiah	6	1 Black male over 16, 1 Black male under 16, 1 Black female over 16, 2 Black females under 16, 1 Indian female under 16
Tyler, Moses	1	1 Indian female under 16
Twogood, Eunice	1	1 Indian female over 16
Watson, Matthew	4	2 Black males over 16, 1 Black male under 16, 1 Black female over 16
Watson, Matthew Jr	1	1 Indian female under 16
Richmond, Scipio [nonwhite head of household]	3	1 Indian male over 16, 1 Indian female over 16, 1 Indian female under 16
Quom, Joshua [nonwhite head of household]	5	1 Indian male over 16, 2 Indian males under 16, 2 Indian females over 16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	

## Slaveholding Households in Barrington, 1777-1800

### 1777 Military Census

*Tallied males in a household aged 16-50 capable of bearing arms, including "Negro" or "Indian." No record of whether non-white persons were enslaved or free.*

Head of Household	Number	Details
Allin, Thomas	2	Negro
Allin, Matthew	1	Negro
Scipio "a Negro Man"	1	Negro
Watson, Matthew	2	Negro

### 1779 Property Tax Assessment

*Tallied "slaves [aged] from 10 to 50 years." No tallies for free dependents.*

*Note that Thomas Allin was not listed as an enslaver for people within this age range; unknown if he enslaved any others.*

Head of Household	Number
Allin, Matthew	3
Allen, Samuel	1
Bosworth, Edward	1
Watson, Matthew	1

### 1790 Federal Census

*Tallied free white males over & under 16; free white females; all other free [non-white] persons, and "slaves."*

Head of Household	Number	Details
Allen, Samuel	3	slaves
Allin, Matthew	2	free nonwhite
Allin, Pero	6	free nonwhite (own household)
Allin, Thomas	1	free nonwhite
Bicknell, Asa	2	free nonwhite
Bicknell, James	1	slave
Bicknell, Joshua	2	free nonwhite
Bosworth, Edward	2	slaves
Brown, Prince	8	free nonwhite (own household)
Greene, Richard	1	free nonwhite
Hill, Tower	3	free nonwhite (own household)
Kelley, Duncan	1	slave
Martin, John	2	free nonwhite
Read, David	1	free nonwhite
Richmond, Cyprian	2	free nonwhite (own household)
Smith, Hannah	1	slave
Smith, Nathaniel	2	slaves

Tiffany, Ebenezer	2	1 free nonwhite; 1 slave
Watson, Matthew	1	slave
Watson, Matthew Jr	1	free nonwhite

### 1800 Federal Census

*Tallied free white males and females in several age brackets;  
"all other free persons except Indians not taxed"; and "slaves."*

Head of Household	Number	Details
Allen, Samuel	2	slaves
Allen, Amy, Widow [of Thomas]	12	free nonwhite
Bowen, James	1	free nonwhite
Bosworth, Edward	1	slave
Kelley, Duncan	1	slave
Lilley, Amariah	1	free nonwhite
Richmond, Peleg	2	free nonwhite
Smith, Nathaniel	1	slave
Tiffany, Ebenezer	2	1 free nonwhite, 1 slave
Watson, Matthew	1	slave
Watson, Matthew Jr.	2	free nonwhite

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Appendix 3: Known Persons Enslaved by the Allin Family

This information was compiled from several different sources, including Thomas W. Bicknell's *History of Barrington* (1898: 403-408); a research report entitled "Rhode Island Slave History Medallion Project: Barrington" (2021) by Roger Williams University students Kristen Black and Courtney Garrity, working under the direction of Professor Charlotte Carrington-Farmer; and research notes compiled by Nathaniel L. Taylor, co-author of the National Register nomination, referencing scholarship by Bicknell, Black and Garrity, and others (last updated October 30, 2024).

People of color, especially enslaved persons, were vastly under-represented in primary source documents in 18<sup>th</sup> century Barrington. The few records that do exist often refer to these individuals by first name only, making it difficult to confirm that, for example, the "negrow boy" named Felix whom General Thomas Allin's grandfather purchased in 1704 was the same Felix who sold nine acres of land to Ebenezer Tiffany in 1719/20. Rarely were surnames, ages, birth and death dates, or family relationships noted. The information presented here should be considered preliminary, and subject to revision as further scholarship (conducted outside the scope of this nomination) may enhance our understanding of who these enslaved people were.

#### ENSLAVED PERSONS IN THOMAS ALLIN'S HOUSEHOLD

(Thomas Allin, 1668-1719, was the grandfather of General Thomas Allin)

**Felix**, purchased 1704, age not noted but described as a boy at that time.

Birth/death dates, family relationships unknown.

May or may not be the same Felix who:

Sold 9 acres of land to Ebenezer Tiffany in 1719/20.

Had a wife named Sarah, and three children: Anna, Jerusha, Malakiah.

All belonged to the Barrington Congregational Church, baptized 1732-1740.

Was manumitted in 1740.

**Shaxper**, purchased 1718, age not noted, for 15 pounds 6 pence (partial payment).

Birth/death dates, family relationships unknown.

**Bristol Allin** – bequeathed to Matthew Allin in 1719

Birth/death dates unknown.

Wife: name, birth/death dates unknown.

Children: Pero, Tower.

**Pero Allin**, son of Bristol Allin - bequeathed to Matthew Allin in 1719

Birth/death dates unknown.

Wife: Orpha, enslaved by Col. Sylvester Child of Warren; unclear whether she lived in the Allin household. Birth/death dates unknown.

Children: Tower, Jack, Adam, Henrietta, Phillis.

"Lived on the Allin estate near the Providence River" (Bicknell, 403-408) – this probably refers to the original Allin homestead farm, founded by William Allin in 1678. Whether this means Pero,

Orpha, and their children all resided in the same house with the Allin family, or in another building on the farm, is unknown.

**Tower Allin**, son of Bristol Allin – bequeathed to Matthew Allin in 1719

Birth/death dates unknown.

Wife: Phillis, also known as “little Phillis.” Birth/death dates unknown.

Children: Nancy.

“They lived near the brook at Drownville” (Bicknell, 405) – this exact location is unknown, but Drownville was a late-19<sup>th</sup> century residential plat developed on a portion of the former Allin Farm, and thus did not exist during this Tower Allin’s lifetime. Whether Tower, Phillis, and Nancy resided in the same house with Thomas Allin’s (or later, Matthew Allin’s) family, or in another building on the farm, is unknown.

## **ENSLAVED PERSONS IN MATTHEW ALLIN’S HOUSEHOLD**

(Matthew Allin, 1697-1761, was the father of General Thomas Allin)

**Bristol Allin** – inherited from Thomas Allin in 1719

**Pero Allin**, son of Bristol Allin – inherited from Thomas Allin in 1719

**Tower Allin**, son of Bristol Allin – inherited from Thomas Allin in 1719

**Prince Allin**, purchased in 1752, age about 14 or 15 years old, for 370 pounds current money

Born ca. 1737-1738. Death date unknown.

Wife: Henritta (Writty) Brown. Birth/death dates unknown.

Children: Pero

Writty Brown was “‘bred and born’ in the old brick house, once standing under the big elm trees at the entrance to bridge lane.” (Bicknell, 405). Bridge Lane is not a current street name in Barrington, so the location of the enslaving household in which Writty lived during her childhood could not be identified.

**Pero Allin**, son of Prince Allin. “The Fiddler.”

Born ca. 1766; death date unknown.

Wife: Jenny (Jennie) King. Birth/death dates unknown. “Came from the coast of Guinea. She was a Christian woman, connected with the Congregational Church in this town.” (Bicknell, 405)

Children: Hannah, Clark, Rhenkin, Stephen, Olinda, Mary, Lurane.

Pero’s mother Writty lived with them.

“They lived in Jenny's lane.” (Bicknell, 405). Jenny’s Lane is in southeastern Barrington, so this family apparently did not live on the Allin farm.

**“Felles,” or Phyllis**, purchased in 1742, aged about 10 years old, for 95 pounds

Born ca. 1732. Death date unknown.

When Matthew Allin died in 1761, he bequeathed to his wife Ruth Allin one female enslaved person of her choice, and bequeathed eight male and female enslaved persons to his sons Thomas and Matthew. These nine individuals, referenced by their first names only in the inventory of his estate, were:

**Bristol**

Birth/death dates and family members unknown. May not be the same Bristol whom Matthew Allin had inherited 42 years earlier.

**Dick (Richard)**

Birth date unknown; died ca. 1781. His estate administered by General Thomas Allin.

Wife: Patience Lawrence, an Indigenous woman.

Children: Dick [Jr.]

Enlisted in the Continental Army in 1777; later served on privateer ships. Emancipated as a result of military service during the Revolutionary War. His widow sued for back wages and prize money that he had earned as a hand on the ships *Tracey* and *Adventure*.

**Jane/June**

Birth/death dates and family members unknown.

**Prince**

Likely the same Prince Matthew Allin had purchased in 1752.

Served in Capt. Thomas Allin's Company, Col. Crary's Regiment.

**Tower**

Birth/death dates unknown. May not be the same Tower whom Matthew Allin had inherited 42 years earlier.

**Pero**

Birth/death dates unknown. Unclear whether this is the son of Prince Allin, or the older Pero whom Matthew Allin had inherited 42 years earlier.

**Phillis**

Birth/death dates unknown. Probably the same Phillis whom Matthew Allin had purchased in 1742. Inherited by Matthew's widow, Ruth Allin, who upon her own death in 1784 bequeathed to Phillis several items of personal property.

**Jack**

Birth date unknown, died ca. 1781. His estate was administered by General Thomas Allin.

Family members unknown.

Served in Col. Nathaniel Greene's regiment during the Revolutionary War.

**Binah**

Birth/death dates, family members unknown.

## ENSLAVED PERSONS IN GENERAL THOMAS ALLIN'S HOUSEHOLD

According to the 1774 census, Thomas Allin enslaved three Black men and two Black women, all over age 16. He had inherited four of these people from his father. Two of the men were probably **Dick (Richard) Allin** and **Jack Allin**, both of whom served in the Revolutionary War, earned their freedom, and died ca. 1781. Thomas Allin was the administrator of both of their estates. The names of the other three enslaved people are unknown.

## ENSLAVED PERSONS IN MATTHEW ALLIN'S HOUSEHOLD

(Brother of General Thomas Allin)

According to the 1774 census, Matthew Allin enslaved three Black men and two Black women, all over age 16. He had inherited four of these people from his father. Their names are unknown.

Matthew Allin placed a newspaper advertisement in 1771 offering an 18-year old enslaved woman for sale. Whether this sale happened, or whether Matthew acquired another enslaved woman by 1774, are unknown.

## OTHER ALLINS WHO WERE PERSONS OF COLOR: ENSLAVED, FORMERLY ENSLAVED, OR DESCENDANTS OF ENSLAVED

**Adam Allin**, son of Pero Allin [according to Bicknell, the Pero who was bequeathed to Matthew Allin in 1719]; fisherman

1792-1863

Wife: Becky; birth/death dates unknown.

Lived in "a small cottage near Annawomscutt Brook, close to the Allin cemetery." (Bicknell, 569)  
Adam and Becky were "the last of the Allin family [of color] in Barrington" and both were buried in the Allin Burial Ground (Bicknell, 569).

**Henrietta (Ritty) Allin**, sister of Adam Allin [according to Bicknell, daughter of Pero Allin, who had been bequeathed to Matthew Allin in 1719]; washerwoman.

Birth/death dates unknown.

Lived in a "little cottage on the east bank of Bullock's Cove." This likely was located on former Allin farmland.

**Nancy Allin**, daughter of Tower and Phillis Allin

Birth/death dates unknown

Married Thomas Henderson.

Children: Priscilla, Frederic, Jack (John).

Lived at Nyatt in southern Barrington (not on former Allin farmland).

**Pero Allin**

Born ca. 1778. Death date, family relationships unknown.

**Phyllis Allin**, “post emancipation,” wife of Cato Euston (m. 1793)

Birth/death dates, family relationships unknown.

Moved with her husband, also formerly enslaved in Barrington, to Newport.

**Tower Allin**, mariner

Born ca. 1787; death date, family relationships unknown.

**Scipio Freeman (formerly, Scipio Richmond)**

Ca. 1746-1816.

Possibly enslaved as a boy by Benjamin Viall of Rehoboth, Mass. (?-1750), and bequeathed first to Benjamin’s wife Sarah and then to their daughter Esther (Viall) Tiffany (1715-1792), wife of Ephraim Tiffany (d. 1771).

Esther and Ephraim Tiffany’s daughter Elizabeth Tiffany married Matthew Allin, brother of General Thomas Allin. Elizabeth was Matthew’s first wife.

By 1773 Scipio Richmond was evidently a free man, and had purchased a 1-acre house lot from the Town of Barrington, which was represented in the sale by a committee composed of Matthew Allin and Joshua Bicknell. He was listed in the 1774 census as a free head of household. By 1779 Scipio Richmond owned 4 acres and a dwelling house; the property lay partly in Barrington and partly in Rehoboth, Mass.

Scipio Richmond may have changed his surname to Freeman about 1773, although he was also said to have earned his freedom by serving in the Revolutionary War, which did not start until 1776.

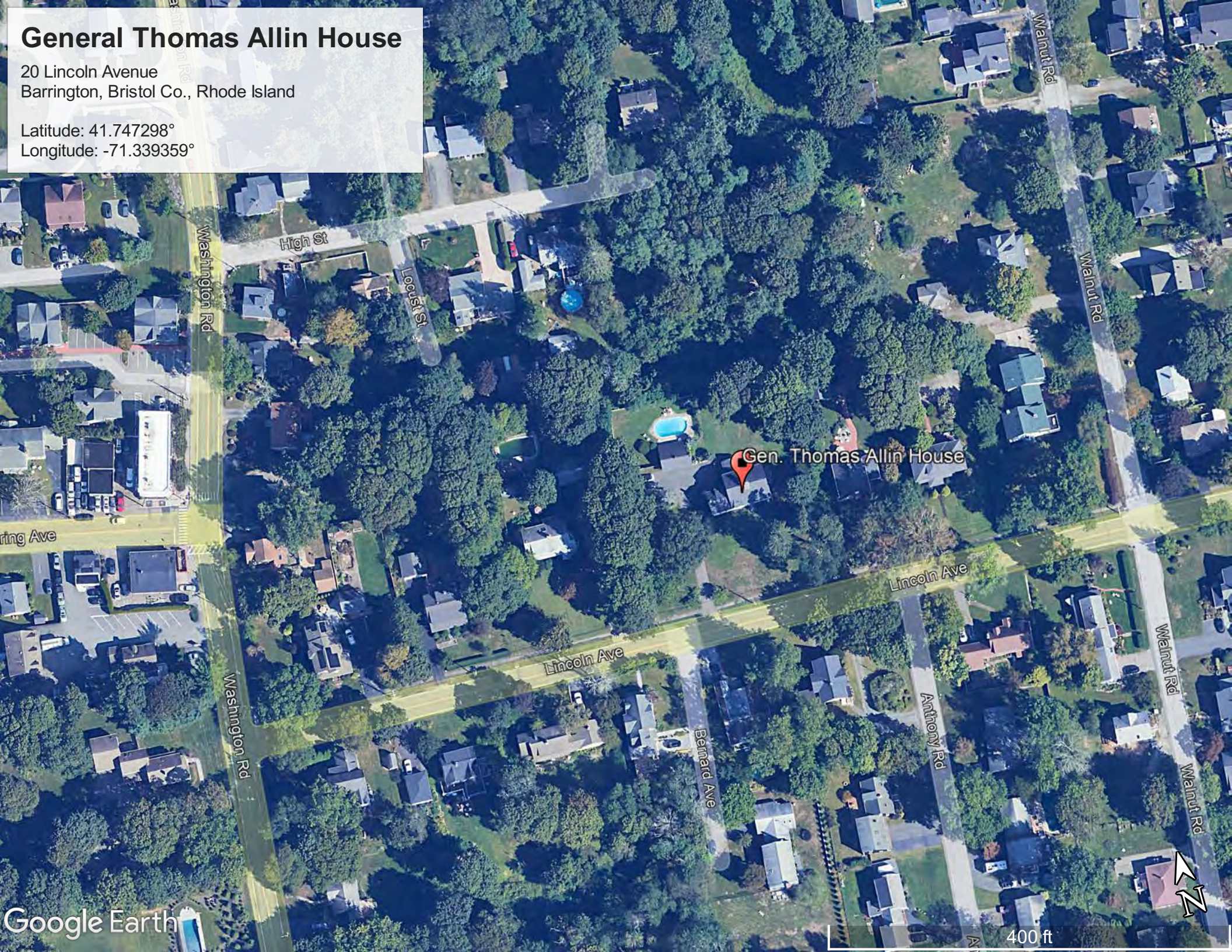
Scipio Freeman was the only person of color buried in the Allin Burial Ground whose grave is marked with a headstone honoring his Revolutionary War service.



# General Thomas Allin House

20 Lincoln Avenue  
Barrington, Bristol Co., Rhode Island

Latitude: 41.747298°  
Longitude: -71.339359°





# General Thomas Allin House

20 Lincoln Avenue  
Barrington, Bristol Co., Rhode Island

Latitude: 41.747298°  
Longitude: -71.339359°

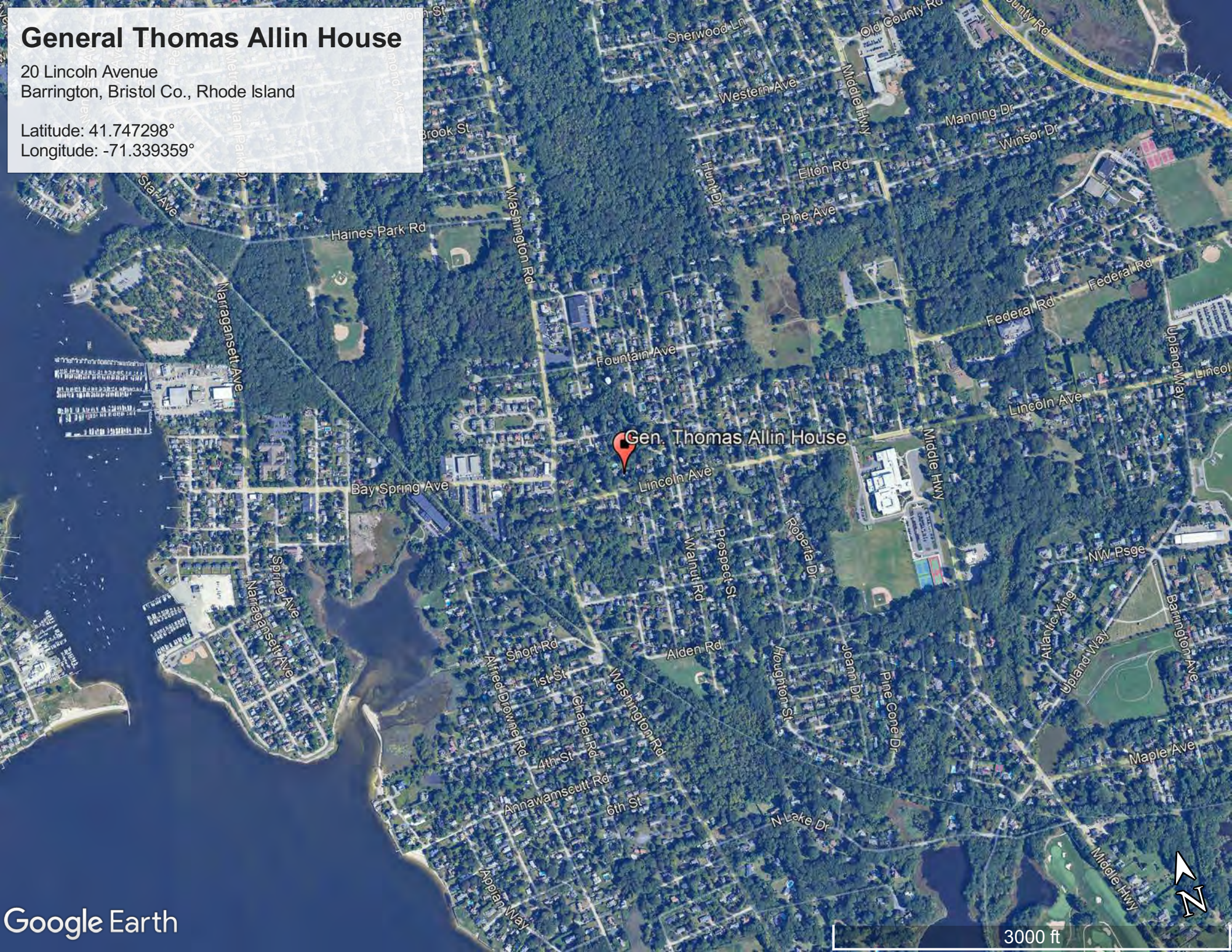






Photo 1: Exterior, view of the south façades of the ca. 1769-1774 main block (at right) and the ca. 1857 west ell (at left) of the General Thomas Allin House, looking north.





Photo 2: Exterior, view of the main block and west ell, the driveway west of the house, and the garage (NC) northwest of the house, looking northeast..





Photo 3: Exterior, view of the west and north (rear) elevations of the west ell (at right); west and partial north elevations of the main block (middle); and west elevation of the two ca. 1895-1921 north additions with shed and gable roofs (at left), looking southeast.





Photo 4: Exterior, view of the north (rear) elevations of the main block and the larger north addition, and a partial view of the north elevation of the west ell, looking south.





Photo 5: Exterior, view of the east elevation of the main block, the ca. 1922-1951 east addition, the post-1952 cellar stairway enclosure, and the north addition, looking southwest.





Photo 6: Exterior, view of the south façade and east elevation of the main block, east elevation of the east addition (at right), and south façade of the west ell, looking northwest.





Photo 7: Exterior, view of the 19th c. well with 20th c. well cover, situated in the east side yard of the house, looking south.





Photo 8: Exterior, view of the 19th c. well with 20th c. well cover, looking northeast.





Photo 9: Exterior, view of garage (NC), looking northeast.





Photo 10: Exterior, view of ca. 1995 swimming pool (NC) and north (rear) elevation of garage (NC), looking southwest.





Photo 11: Interior, cellar of main block of the General Thomas Allin House, looking southwest toward the base of the center chimney (obscured by shelving units).





Photo 12: Interior: cellar of main block, deep niche (unknown function) in the west side of the base of the center chimney, looking northeast.





Photo 13: Interior, cellar of main block, small niche (unknown function) in the south wall near the southeast corner of the cellar. Similar niches are in the south wall and west wall.





Photo 14: Interior, cellar of main block, stairs in the east wall near the northeast corner leading up to the east side yard, looking northeast.





Photo 15: Interior, main block, first floor, entrance vestibule and front stair hall, looking southeast. Shows the interior face of the front door with ca. 1951 "colonial" vertical board panels and reproduction wrought iron strap hinges, and an 18<sup>th</sup> century rim lock.



Photo 16: Interior, main block, first floor, entrance vestibule and front stair hall, looking northeast. Shows the front stairway with original Georgian-style railings, newel posts and drop pendant. The closet under the stairs provides access to the smoke chamber in chimney.





Photo 17: Interior, main block, first floor, southeast parlor, looking southeast.





Photo 18: Interior, main block, first floor, southeast parlor, looking northeast



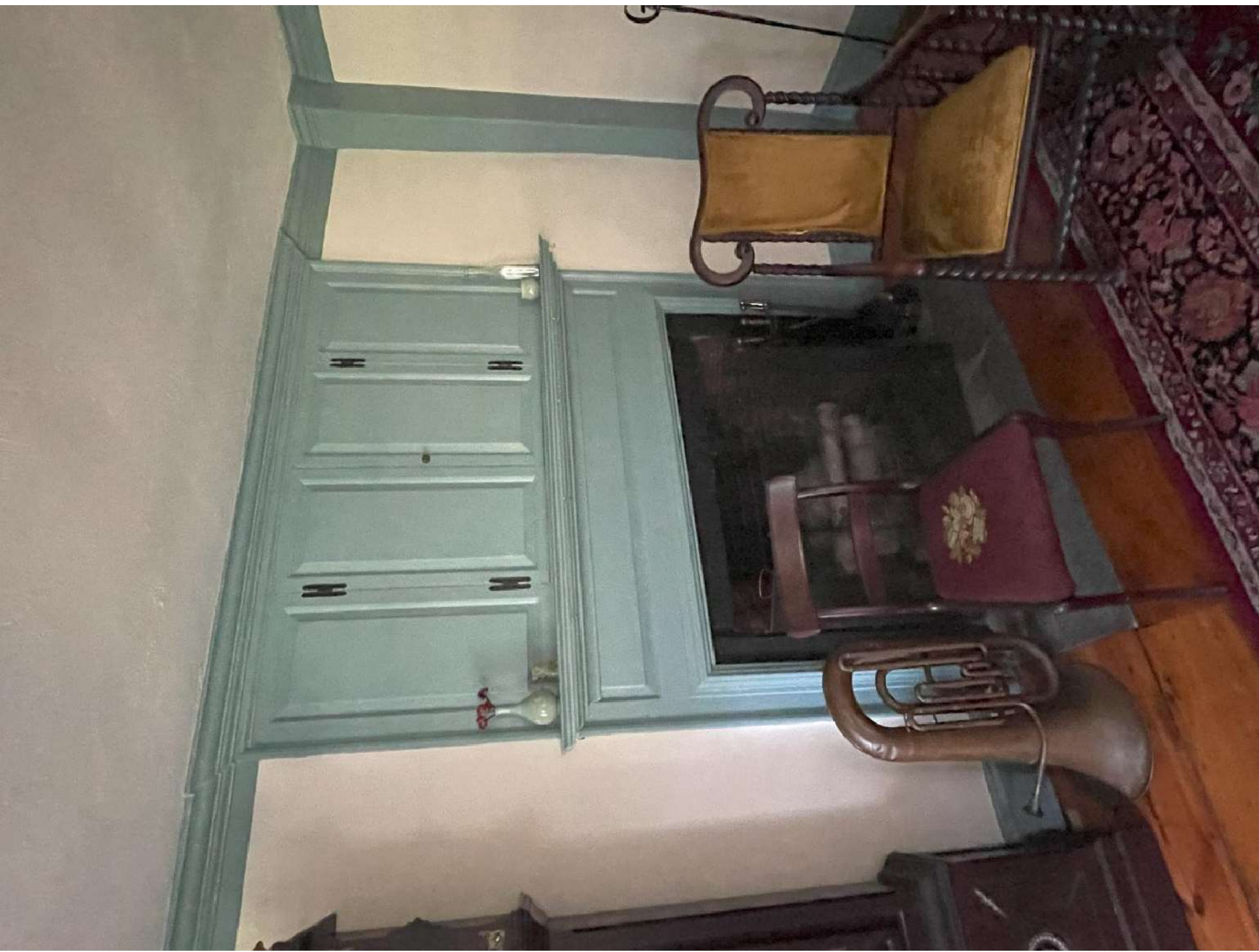


Photo 19: Interior, main block, first floor, southeast parlor, fireplace on the west wall, looking northwest.





Photo 20: Interior, main block, first floor, former two northeast corner rooms combined ca. 1922-1951 (now a dining room), looking north.



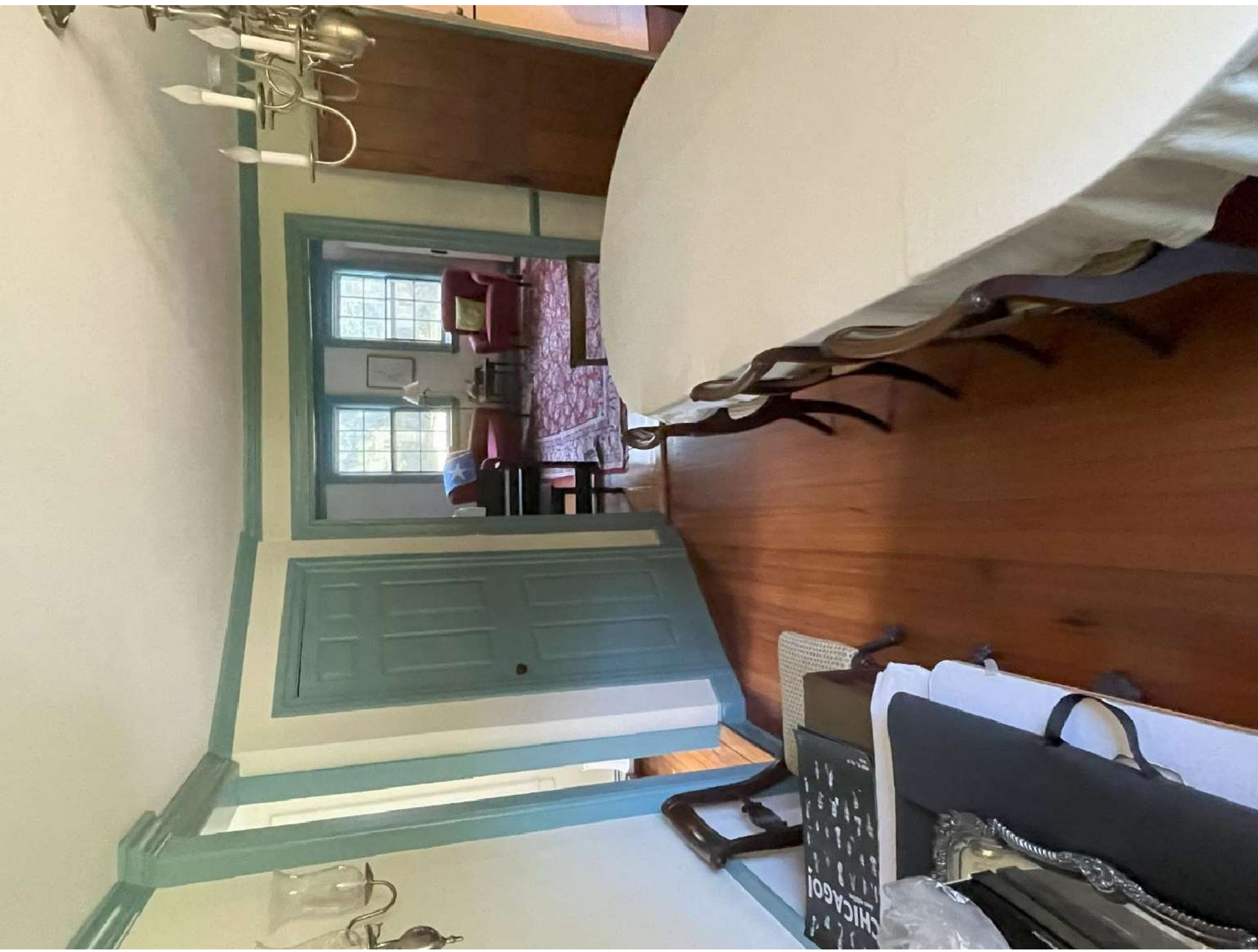


Photo 21: Interior, main block, first floor, northeast corner rooms combined ca. 1922-1951 (now, a dining room), looking south.



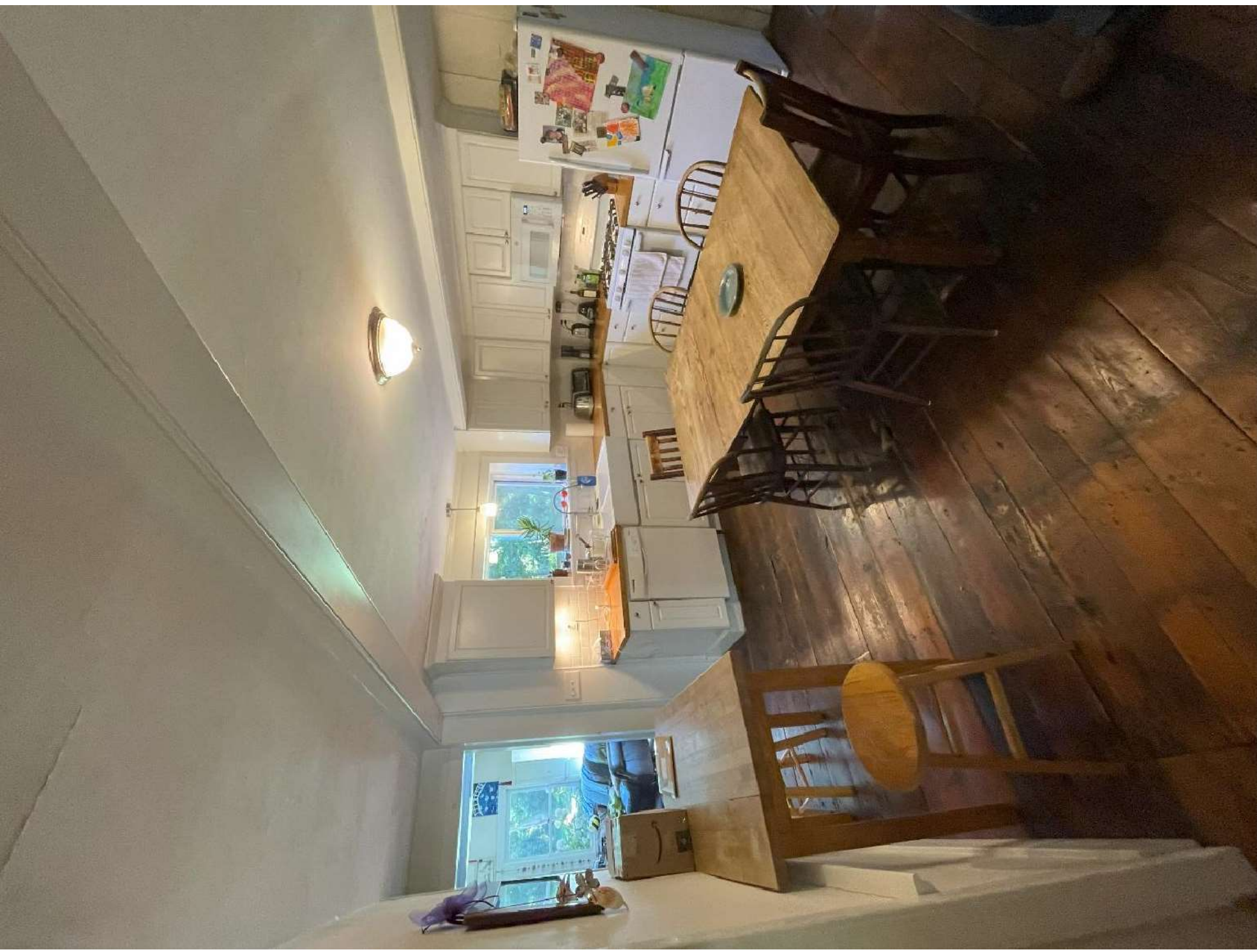


Photo 22: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking northeast. The ceiling beam with beaded-edge casing in the foreground is the west chimney girl; part of the east chimney girl is also visible.





Photo 23: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking southeast. Both exposed chimney girts with beaded-edge casings are visible.





Photo 24: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking southeast. Close-up view of the fireplace with two beehive ovens, firewood storage, and whetstone (on the left wall of the firebox).





Photo 25: Interior, main block, first floor, kitchen, looking east. Close-up view of the whetstone in the left wall of the firebox.



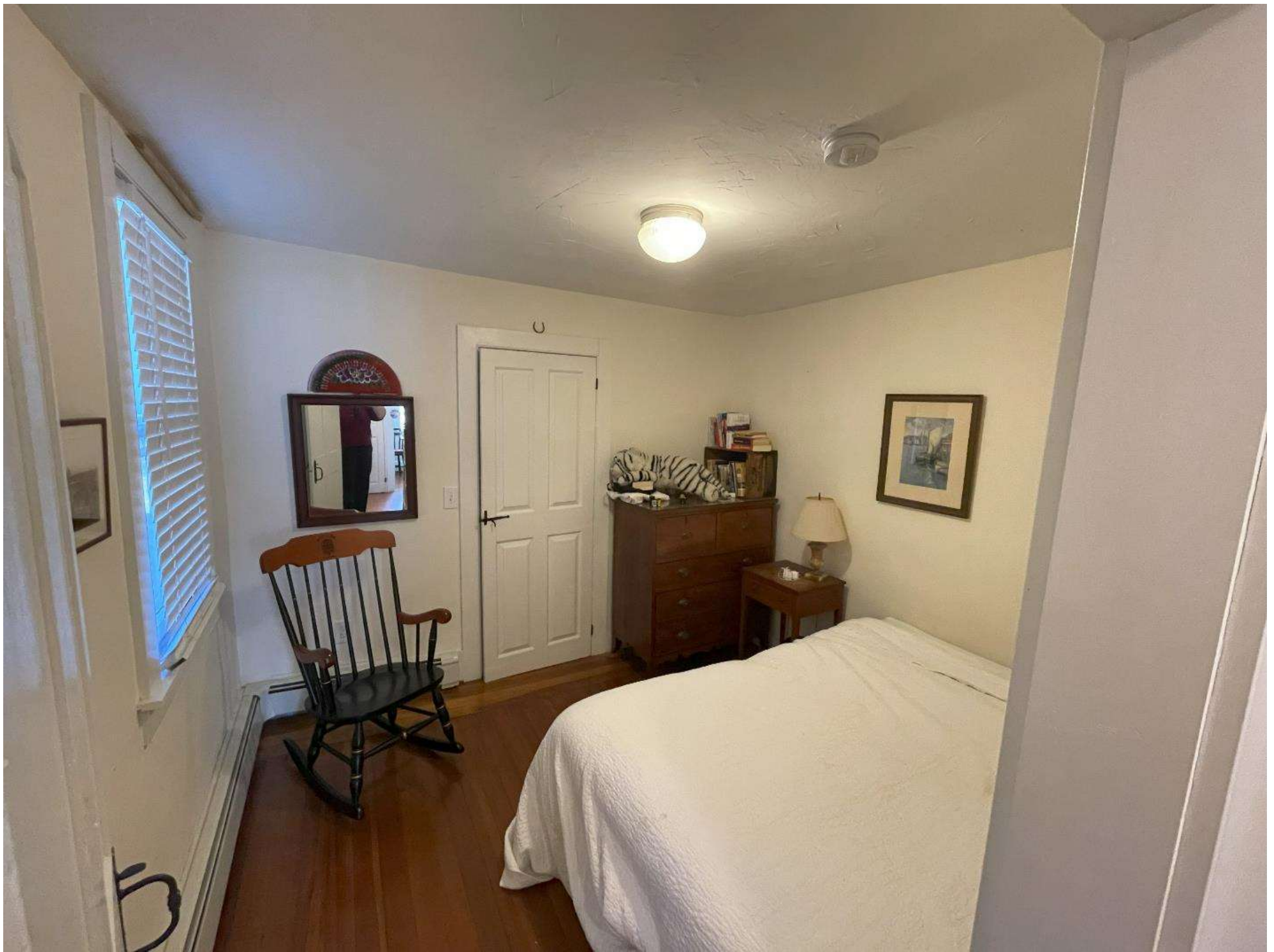


Photo 26: Interior, main block, first floor, northwest room (now the “north bedroom” of an in-law apartment), looking northeast.



Photo 27: (2010) interior, main block, first floor, northwest corner room before 2010 removal of partition wall, looking southwest. The oak vertical planks of the partition wall that ran east-west (shown at left) match the oak vertical planks of the west exterior wall (shown at right), indicating that the partition wall was likely original.





Photo 28: Interior, main block, first floor, “passage” created ca. 2010 on the west side of the southwest parlor, looking northeast.



Photo 29: Interior, main block, first floor, southwest parlor (“south bedroom” of the in-law apartment), looking east. An original fireplace on the east wall of this room was eliminated in 1951 to accommodate a central heating system; the chair rail and baseboard were added at that time.



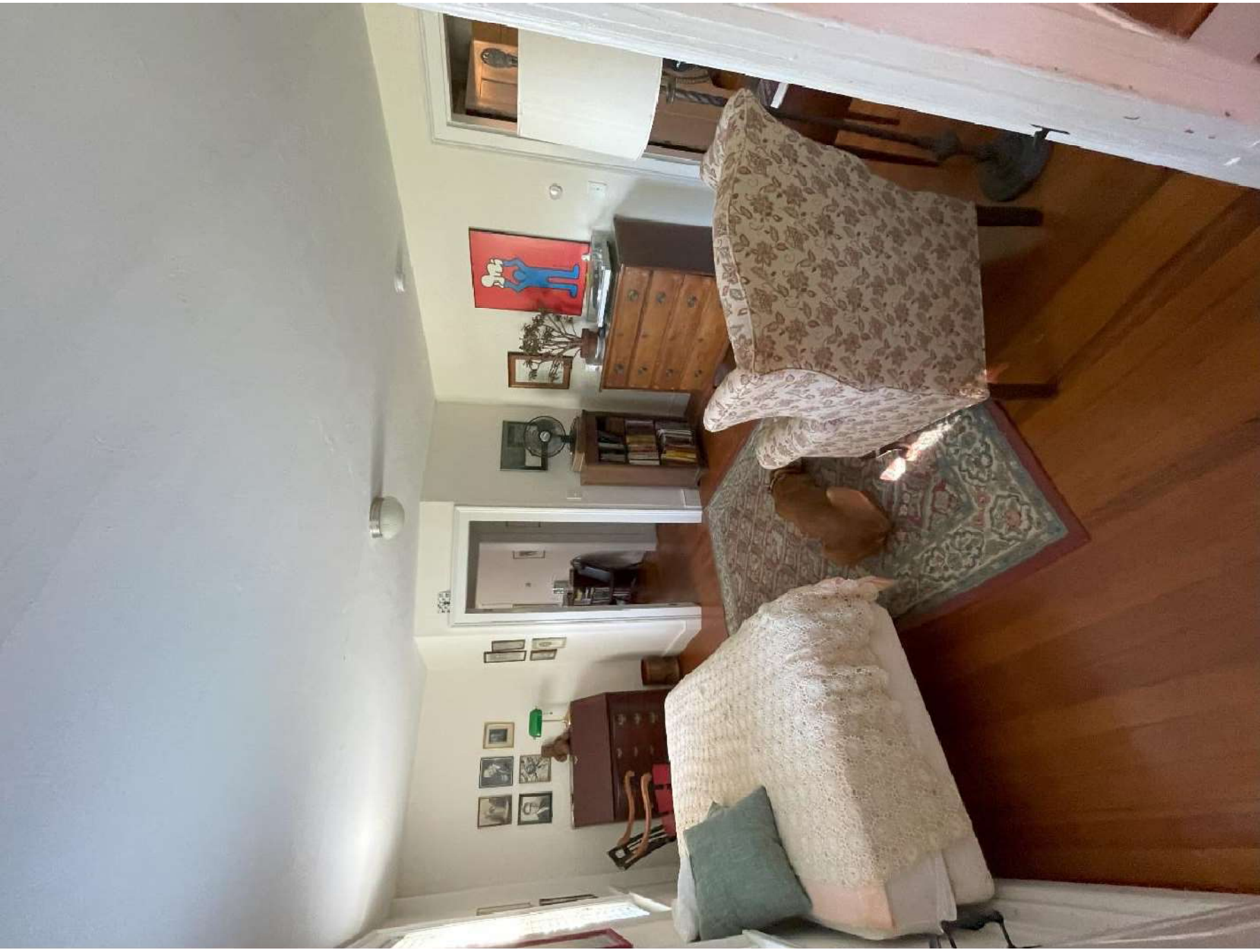


Photo 30: Interior, man block, first floor, southwest parlor (now the “south bedroom” of in-law apartment), looking northwest. The doorway in the middle background is situated within a ca. 2010 partition wall that created a passageway along the west side of this room leading to other rooms of the in-law apartment in the main block and the west ell. The doorway at right is situated within a ca. 1802 partition wall that formerly enclosed a pantry along the north side of this room, and now gives access to a closet and through the closet to the kitchen.





Photo 31: Interior, west ell, first floor, “activity/dining room” (part of the in-law apartment), looking southwest.





Photo 32: Interior, west ell, first floor, “activity/dining room” (part of the in-law apartment), looking northeast.





Photo 33: Interior, shed-roofed north addition, first floor, "alcove," now a mudroom, looking northeast.





Photo 34: Interior, gable-roofed north addition, first floor, “sunroom,” looking northwest.





Photo 35: Interior, main block, second floor, stair hall, looking northwest. Shows one example of the Federal-style trim found around all three doorways and one window in this space. The doorway here gives access to the chimney mass.





Photo 36: Interior, main block, second floor, southeast (master) bedroom, looking northwest





Photo 37: Interior, main block, second floor, southeast (master) bedroom, looking northeast.





Photo 38: (2010) interior, main block, second floor, northeast corner rooms, looking northeast. Shows the original partition wall running east-west with a doorway cut out in 2010 to connect the present master closet (seen in foreground) with the master bathroom beyond; see Photo 39 for a detail view of the cut-out section.



Photo 39: (2010) interior, main block, second floor, northeast corner rooms, detail of partition wall running east west that was cut out in 2010 to create a doorway; see Photo 38. Shows the original vertical plank wall structure of the partition wall, with applied lath and plaster.





Photo 40: Interior, main block, second floor, sitting room (now “master multi-use room”), looking northeast.





Photo 41: Interior, main block, second floor, sitting room (now, “master multi-use room”), looking southwest.





Photo 42: Interior, main block, second floor, back stair hall, looking northeast at partition wall installed ca. 1802 when the house was converted to 2-family use.





Photo 43: Interior, main block, second floor, southwest (“Widow Allin’s”) bedroom, looking northeast.





Photo 44: Interior, main block, second floor, southwest (“Widow Allin’s”) bedroom, detail of fireplace, looking southeast.





Photo 45: Interior, west ell, second floor, "center bedroom," looking southwest.





Photo 46: Interior, west ell, second floor, “southwest bedroom,” looking southwest.





Photo 47: Interior, main block, attic, detail of pegged rafters.





Photo 48: Interior, main block, west end of attic, looking southwest.





Photo 49: Interior, main block, west end of attic, looking northeast.





# State of Rhode Island

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER S. BOYLAN, *District 66*  
*Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*  
*Committee on Innovation, Internet and Technology*

November 27, 2024

Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, RI 02903

To the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission:

I am writing today in support of the nomination of the General Thomas Allin House for listing on the National Register of Historic Places which will be on your agenda for December 2, 2024. This home is one of only 19 houses in Barrington which survive from the eighteenth century, and it is a well-preserved example of the Georgian-Federal styles. Preserving and recognizing early structures enriches our community by allowing us to study and learn from the past and encouraging us to preserve such structures for future generations. Only three private houses in Barrington are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A fourth such listing would be an asset to our community.

Not only is the General Thomas Allin house architecturally significant, it is also historically significant as a witness to the history of slavery in Barrington. Barrington residents have recently been learning more about the history of slavery in our community, notably with the installation of a Rhode Island Slave History Medallion in Barrington's library. Recognition of the General Thomas Allin House as a witness to the history of slavery in our town will benefit the town by continuing that exploration of our history.

I respectfully request your favorable consideration of this nomination. If I can be of assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Thank you.

Jennifer S. Boylan

State Representative for House District 66 Riverside/Barrington

[Rep-Boylan@RILegislature.gov](mailto:Rep-Boylan@RILegislature.gov) 401-222-1723

House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

House Committee on Innovation, Internet and Technology

Cc: Jeffrey Emidy, Executive Director

Joanna Doherty, Deputy Director

[jeffrey.emidy@preservation.ri.gov](mailto:jeffrey.emidy@preservation.ri.gov)

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P.O. Box 178  
Barrington, RI 02806  
November 29, 2024

Mr. Jeffrey Emidy, Executive Director, State Historic Preservation  
Officer  
Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission  
1 Capitol Hill, Suite 201  
Providence, RI 02908

RE: Public Comment for the National Register of Historic Places  
Nomination of the General Thomas Allin House, Barrington

Dear Mr. Emidy,

Please accept this letter in support of the nomination of the General Thomas Allin House, 20 Lincoln Avenue, Barrington, RI, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Having known Nathaniel Taylor for the past nine years, this nomination clearly represents Nat's dedication to preserving local, state and national history, as seen through the unique lens of our Nation's historic structures and sites. Through his meticulous research and exemplary documentation, Nat's ability to synthesize both minute details and broad-based concepts into a cohesive, thought-filled document is evident. As such, both the significant architectural and common heritage information laid out in this nomination not only support the goals and mission of the National Register of Historic Places, but also provide a solid foundation for future research as well.

Thank you.

Yours truly,  
Maria Bruce  
BPS Trustee  
Plaque Program Chair