

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Allen (Candace) House

AND/OR HISTORIC: :

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
12 Benevolent Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
William Slater Allen

STREET AND NUMBER:
12 Benevolent Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02906 CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Providence City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance Street at Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 ff. Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Candace Allen house of 1818-1822 on College Hill is typical of the Federal-style houses which John Holden Greene designed for prosperous citizens of Providence in the early XIX Century. Built of light red brick over a timber frame upon a granite basement, this rectangular, stands two-and-a-half storeys high and is covered by a hip roof whose panelled and windowed monitor provides the half-storey. The main (south) façade is five bays wide, and the main block of the house is four bays deep; on the west is a not-large two-storey rectangular ell. The centred front door, which has a fanlight and sidelights, is contained within an elaborate one-storey wooden porch supported on paired Corinthian columns and having wrought-iron side and stair railings. Above this porch is a second-floor window whose form echoes that of the doorway. The other windows of the house, symmetrically placed, have plain marble sills and lintels; the first-floor windows on the south façade are floor-length, with triple-hung sash, and each of these has a wrought-iron balcony. The moulded wooden eaves cornice has below it modillions and a course of beading. Originally there ran above it a wooden parapet which was panelled above wall surfaces and had sections of turned balusters above windows; there may also have been railings or balustrades on top of the entrance porch and on top of the monitor. Four tall chimneys serving the basic Federal four-room, central-hall plan are symmetrically placed inside the end walls.

It would appear that most, if not all, of the present west wing is a later addition--probably dating from the middle of the XIX Century. The porticoes secondary entrance in the angle between the main block and the wing is stylistically close to dated examples in Providence of c. 1850, though window shape and lintel design in the wing conform to those of the older main block. Differences in actual brick colour as well as in foundation level and roof height tend to confirm this theory.

Benevolent Street slopes markedly down towards the west; so the level, grassed platform upon which the Allen house sits is contained within a granite retaining-wall, part of which carries a cast-iron fence. At the north-west corner of the property stands a square carriage-house contemporary with the dwelling. It is of brick with a cornice of articulated brickwork below a hipped roof. Its east front has paired two-storey recessed blind arches: in the lower portion of each is a portal and in the upper part a round-headed window. On the ground floor there still remains an old carriage turntable. An old driveway combining flat paving and cobblestones leads in to this building from Megee Street, past the rear of the main house and its service entrance.

The front door lets directly into the central stair-hall which does not--as in many earlier houses--have a rear exterior door, but terminates in front of a small cloakroom. To the right are the two drawing-rooms, which can be thrown into one by means of large sliding doors. At left front is the dining-room and behind it, but not con-

(See Continuation Sheet 1.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)-1

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

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

connecting, a library. (It is likely that this library may have been kitchen space before construction of the western ell, where domestic offices are now located.) Door trim in the stair-hall is of symmetrically-moulded architraves with panelled corner-blocks at the top; in other rooms the door and window architraves are simpler, with only an outer moulding and no corner-blocks. Mantels on this floor are marble, of one-storey type, and have entablatures supported by columns and containing panelled friezes. The open string of the staircase has two panels at the end of each step, each panel containing a pointed arch with internal cusps (typical of Greene's habit of using Gothic motifs for small adornments of otherwise classical houses). The staircase takes a curve about two-thirds of the way up and returns towards the front of the house. The layout of rooms on the second floor is like that of the first floor.

In the XIX Century--probably c. 1860-1870--some changes in interior trim were undertaken to bring décor "up to date" or in accord with then-prevailing tastes. These include the placing of stained glass in the fan- and sidelights of the front door, the laying of a mosaic floor of encaustic tile in the lower hall and replacement of the original stair-rail by one with moulded hand-rail, turned balusters and heavy polygonal newel all of dark wood. At the same time, the first floor was given new plaster cornices--those in the drawing-rooms being generously-projecting ones of many sharp mouldings, those in the hall and dining-room having heading, floral bosses, consoles etc. New wall coverings were also introduced in some rooms, although the rear, or north, drawing-room retains its original early imported French papier peint. At a later time, probably, some of the upstairs rooms were given wallpapers whose patterns bring to mind the designs of William Morris. Not least of the upstairs "improvements" was the installation of a bathroom-cum-water-closet which still displays its original fixtures, encased in dark wood panelling, and regal in size and placement.

After a period of closure and neglect, during which time the eaves parapet rotted and fell off (it has not yet been replaced), the house was in the 1950's taken over by Mr. and Mrs. William Slater Allen, who live in it and give it good maintenance.

8. Significance.

later ones; there are extant the Benoni Cooke house, 1825; William Woodward and William Smith houses, c. 1825; Arnold-Palmer house, 1826; Truman Beckwith house, 1827-1828; and if certain of these are not documented as from Greene's hands, they pay him the compliment of close copying.) However, the Allen house, perhaps because of its very fortunate

(See Continuation Sheet 2.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)-2

STATE Rhode Island	
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8. Significance.

proportions and its particularly handsome porch, seems the most elegant of them. The proportions would be due to an innate sensitivity on the part of the architect; the crisp and classically correct exterior and interior trim, economically used and wisely placed, is most likely due to Greene's known use of the design books published by Asher Benjamin in the first part of the XIX Century. This well-preserved house is an important example of the sophisticated carpenter-architect style as practised in urban centres in the 1800-1830 period.

Remaining from the 1820's to to-day in the ownership and use of one family, it is also a revealing document of changing tastes and social requirements insofar as it was expanded and partially redecorated some thirty or forty years after the original construction, and partially redecorated again twenty-five or thirty years later. The trend away from symmetrical, formal planning towards a more complex inter-relationship of spaces and services and more elaborate forms of ornament is clearly evident, while the decision to retain the character of the original block is indicative of some sincere interest in and appreciation of an earlier architectural style and heritage--feelings frequently absent in renovations engendered by the changeable tastes of the mid-XIX Century.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1818-1822

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Candace Allen, for whom this house was built, was daughter in a Rhode Island family which, through the textile manufacturing and other commercial interests developed in the XVIII Century by Zachariah Allen, possessed both wealth and a prominent position in state and local civic, business and social affairs. Candace Allen had a fiancé who was killed in the War of 1812, depriving her of the prospect of a husband who would build a house for her. Consequently her family, in the way of compensation and consolation, built the house on Benevolent Street for her. An architect was chosen who was much in fashion and in favour locally (and whom the Allens would employ also to work on designs for the Allendale Mill of 1822--also a National Register nomination--in Centredale). Since it was designed for a spinster, the house under our notice is, however handsome or elegant in design, not really large in accommodation.

Upon the death of Candace Allen around 1860 her home was inherited by a nephew, Crawford Allen, who made some of the internal changes described. In 1887 the house was acquired by Anne C. Allen, who made a few changes of her own in decoration, and in this century it was the property of Philip Allen, late father of the present owner. Across Megee Street, and overlooking the Candace Allen house, stands the square Italianate residence of the 1850's (now the Brown University Faculty Club) built by a second Zachariah Allen.

Even were its architectural provenance not known, the Candace Allen house would in any case have importance as an outstanding building among those in the College Hill Historic District of Providence and as a survivor in that part of the District where Brown University has in recent decades demolished most of the neighboring and contemporary houses. However, its provenance is known, and it is significant also in other ways.

Designed by John Holden Greene (1777-1850), a Rhode Island native and self-educated architect whose active career was contained chiefly within the Federal period; the Allen house of 1818-1822 represents the first example of a successful and urbane city-house formula--oblong block, classical porch, hip roof, monitor--which he was to employ on a number of later dwellings in Providence. (Of these

(See Continuation Sheet 1.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Downing, Antoinette F.: Early Homes of Rhode Island (Richmond, Virginia, 1937), p. 433.
 Withey, Henry F., and Withey, Elsie R.: Biographical Dictionary of American Architects ... (Los Angeles, California, 1970), p. 250.
 Neu, Deborah, ed.: John Holden Greene, Carpenter Architect of Providence (Providence, Rhode Island, 1972), pp. 30-31.
 Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island, 1957), p. 99.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		41° 49' 28.61" N	71° 24' 17.42" W	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Anthony E. Kurneta, Richard B. Harrington, Consultants

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: Sept. 30, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
 John Brown House, 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02906

CODE: 44

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Allen (Candace) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 12 Benevolent Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE Rh	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene			
DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201, 265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Exterior (showing entrance front) from the south-west, as seen to-day, with roof balustrades missing.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

12 Benevolent Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

114

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201,
265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of main stairway.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Rhode Island

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COUNTY:

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CODE

007

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201,
265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Part of south drawing-room, showing original mantel and window treatment,



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CITY OR TOWN: Providence			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 111	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene			
DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201. 265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Dining-room, looking south-west and showing original mantel and window treatment, later cornice elaboration.			



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12 Benevolent Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 111	COUNTY: Providence	CODE 007
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: B. Christopher Bene

DATE OF PHOTO: January, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, Room 201,
265 Melrose Street, Providence, Rhode Island, 02907

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Stair-hall, looking north.



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 49' 28.61" N

Longitude: 71° 24' 17.42" W

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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STREET AND NUMBER:

12 Benevolent Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Providence

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

111

COUNTY:

Providence

CODE

007

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE:

1: 21,000

DATE:

1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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