

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
	JAN 13 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Martin Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
* Bradley (George M.) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Eaton Street (within Providence College Campus)

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02918 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Providence CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Providence College

STREET AND NUMBER:
River Avenue

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

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance and Washington Streets

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Not so represented

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

This house was built in the early 1850's for George M. Bradley, a law partner of the owner of the adjoining property, and was designed in the Italian Villa style by the young Rhode Island architect Thomas A. Tefft. It is located on a knoll on what were once the salubrious outskirts of the city, and its grounds originally comprised twenty-six acres (now forming part of the Providence College campus). There were surely outbuildings, gardens etc., which have for many years been gone. Fine and large old trees, however, still surround the house.

The former Bradley dwelling is a timber-framed, two-and-one-half-storey structure set upon a low brownstone foundation and is faced on major elevations with beige granite in coursed ashlar; elsewhere it is faced with stucco, once scored to imitate ashlar. Trim is of both brownstone and wood. Metal-sheathed roofs are both gabled and hipped. The picturesque massing and silhouette, the asymmetrical effect, inherent in old Italian country buildings and later demanded by American mid-XIX-Century architectural style, are present here. The house is visually composed of two parallel rectangles, one (east) of two storeys with a low attic under a gabled roof, the other (west) of two main storeys under a hipped roof, with--however--a square tower rising three full storeys at its front end. This latter (west) wing extends well to the north at the rear of the house, where it is contrived to contain three condensed or diminished storeys accommodating domestic offices and servants' chambers. These two so-called wings are joined at the front (south) part of the house by a narrow two-storey connector with low-pitched roof, slightly recessed in the front façade. On the ground floor this link contains an arcaded entrance loggia prefacing the main hall and staircase. The wings and their linking hall do not form a pure rectangle: an angular, two-storey bay projects at about the middle of the west elevation, and there is an angular one-storey bay window on the front of the east wing, giving the light and ventilation, the variety of outline desired.

Accents placed upon and around the exterior were (and remain) important in achieving the wanted picturesqueness and asymmetry. These consist of the three-part open arcade of the main entrance loggia and of the repeated arch treatment (now glassed-in) of the space above it; of east and west porches--one with slender posts carrying segmental arches, the other with square piers between which are arches--both with concave roofs. Also, the west wing has a second-storey frontal balcony, carried on strong brackets, with a fretted concave hood. Gable and eaves cornices have bold paired brackets.* A shallow porch, its roof carried on simple posts, ran along the east side of the service wing at the rear of the house, this has been removed as has also the more architecturally important porch along the east wing; only the arcaded south-west corner porch remains--quite dilapidated. At one time a long dormitory addition was extended at the rear end of the service wing; this has been removed, leaving ugly scars at the point of amputation.

(See Continuation Sheet.)

*The brackets are actually in the frieze.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. Description.

While the house has intended variety and complexity in its external forms, the interior plan is actually a quite simple and traditional one. The east wing, the front portion of the west wing, together with their hall-connector, form almost a square: this contains a front-to-back centre hall at the rear of which the main stair rises in two right-angled runs to a landing and continues in a third, slightly curved run to the second floor. Flanking the hall on the ground floor are, on the east, a pair of drawing-rooms (their large connecting door now walled-in); to the west and at the front is a library, and behind it the dining-room. The west wing stretches, as mentioned, to the north beyond the dining-room to house service rooms. The plan of the first storey is nearly duplicated on the chamber floor above, where a small frontal staircase leads to the tower room and where the area above the open entrance loggia has been at some time glassed-in to form a boudoir. At this floor-level, the northern extension of the house contains small bedrooms and service stairs, while its third floor contains servants' quarters.

Trim within the house consists of simple, pronouncedly angular or else bulbous architrave, baseboard and other mouldings, fine hardwood floors (now in part covered by linoleum), panelled wooden or carved marble mantels (most now removed) and elaborate cast-plaster cornices in vine and rope designs (fortunately mostly surviving). Windows were provided with panelled and louvred interior shutters, most of which have been removed.

Following occupancy as a residence for fifty or sixty years, the house was acquired--as was the neighbouring, contemporary Bailey villa--for use by the religious, and for some time it housed a seminary of the Dominican Fathers. During such use the mentioned extension was made at the north-west; this has since been taken off, restoring the house to its original size and shape if not completely to its original appearance. The structure now contains offices and small apartments for priests. Some exterior trim--notably porches--has been removed, and some has deteriorated. Some interior trim, too, is gone. Nevertheless the form and fabric of the house remain intact, and its owner, Providence College, much hopes to undertake a step-by-step program of its restoration--or at least of its repair--as it is desired to keep it as an ornament to the campus and a building of use thereon, though not to make it a house-museum.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1850-1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

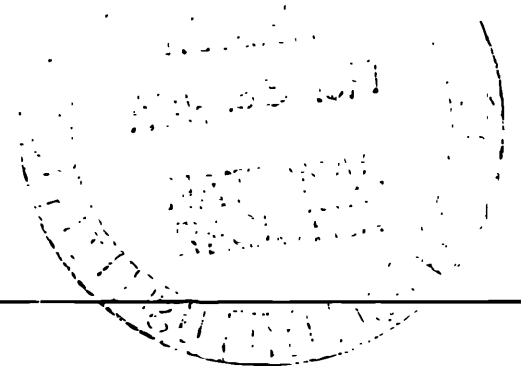
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bradley villa and the adjacent Bailey villa, with their towers, their interesting roof-lines and silhouettes, their remaining trees and plantings and their still-grassy front slopes, are adornments of the Eaton Street side of the Providence College campus and together provide almost the only mature and picturesque landscape grouping of that rather haphazardly built-up institutional property. The college now realizes that these houses are, from several points of view, precious possessions.

In any case, the Bradley house has its own special significance in being not only one of the three or four large surviving houses in Providence in the full, picturesque Italian Villa style, but also one of the relatively few important examples in the whole state. It is furthermore one of the, regrettably, very few structures still standing in Rhode Island or elsewhere by the short-lived, exceedingly talented local architect Thomas Alexander Tefft (1826-1859), who won world-wide acclaim for his 1848 design of the large Providence railroad-station complex, achieved when he was still only a college sophomore. The greater part of his commissions, however, was for residences, and in these he displayed--in an era of architectural confusion--inherent qualities of subtle taste and of considerable ingenuity.

The Bradley house exhibits his particular liking for the somewhat severe but seldom dull north-Italian architecture of the early Renaissance, with its play of proportions, masses, recesses, towers, openings. This style was also liked by the famous and somewhat older Richard Upjohn, from whom Tefft may here have taken a cue (cf. Upjohn's well-published Edward King villa of 1845-1847 in Newport), though he was not a plagiarist, as one can see from many of his original plans, elevations and perspectives (including a perspective for the Bradley house) preserved in three Providence collections. This house forms an important part of the historical mosaic of American XIX-Century architecture: it is fortunate that it still stands and that an original Tefft drawing remains to guide its owner in preserving it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cady, John Hutchins: The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence, 1636-1950 (Providence, Rhode Island, 1957), pp. 126, 225.

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	° ' "	° ' "		41° 50' 31" N	71° 26' 10" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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:
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: **Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission** DATE: **July 15, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

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

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Frederick C. Williamson

Title State Liaison Officer

Date August 19, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Caspary
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JAN 13 1972

Date _____

ATTEST:

William M. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 9 1972

DTN REF
 12-11-75
 1970/09/26 50/4/6 24:30
 SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROVIDENCE QUADRANGLE
RHODE ISLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6767 IV NE
ATTLEBORO

LE 11 MI. R. I. 116 27/30" 297 4.6 MI. TO R. I. 116 (PAWTUCKET) 6767 IV NW 299 25' 300 WOODSOCKET 12 MI. LONSDALE 2.6 MI. 301 SOUTH ATTLEBORO, MASS. 2.2 MI. 153000 FEET 71° 22' 30" 41° 52' 30"



GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES
Latitude: 41° 50' 31" N
Longitude: 71° 26' 10" W

4638

RUMFORD 2 MI.
BARRINGTON 11 MI.

4636
280 000
FEET

4635

4634

50'

16 MI.
TH, MASS. 42 MI.