

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
MAR 7 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:
(Dominic Hall)

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bailey (William L.) House; Hillwood

2. LOCATION

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

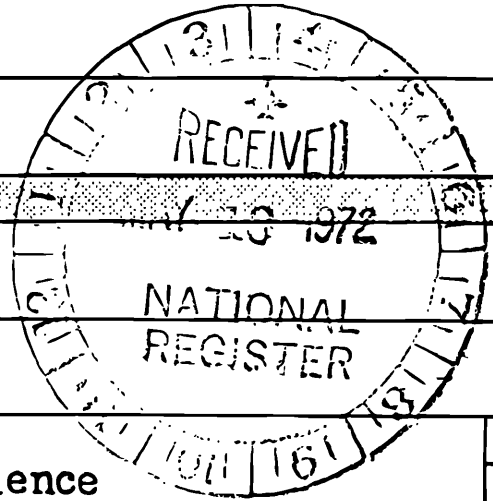
CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02918

CODE: 44

COUNTY:
Providence

CODE: 667



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Official entertaining, conferences

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Providence College

STREET AND NUMBER:
River Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02918

CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Dorrance Street at Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Providence

STATE:
Rhode Island, 02903

CODE: 44

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The four-story, umbrella-roofed octagonal corner tower of this large two-and-one-half-storey stone-faced house energetically proclaims the Italian Villa style of the structure. Like its neighbour the Bradley house, related in style, this house designed (its architect has not been ascertained) for William L. Bailey was built in the early 1850's on an elevation in what were then the outskirts of Providence. On its grassy property (originally of 23 acres and called Hillwood, but now absorbed into the Providence College campus), it could be thought of as almost a country villa and it--together with vanished outbuildings and gardens--was no doubt conceived along those lines: open and irregular in plan and form, well lighted, well ventilated, placed on a generous and airy site.

The house is timber-framed and faced with regularly-coursed smooth ashlar of native stone. It is set on a low basement and, including its service wing to the north, is basically L-shaped. It is capped by gable roofs (formerly of slate) whose ridge-line is constant. However, striking and varied form and silhouette are created by the tower; the intersecting of gables; projecting eaves; a bay; a large entrance porch; bay windows; a prominent dormer etc. Exterior interest lies largely in massing and liveliness of form, and there is little detailed exterior adornment other than string-courses defining the stages of the tower; a deep, projecting stone course beneath the cornices (effectively substituting for architrave, frieze and the almost omnipresent brackets); the simply-supported tan stone sills and lintels of windows; the plain geometrical forms of wooden porches and bay windows.

The entrance front of the house faces south and has the partially embedded octagonal tower near its east end; as a balance, its west end is brought forward in a three-sided bay of two storeys, and between tower and bay is the spacious hexagonal entrance porch. This last, however, has lost its original architectural treatment. To-day the porch roof--which does retain its original cornice--is supported on thin columns, and there are now flimsy lower and upper railings. Originally the porch probably had robust round-headed wooden arcading (conforming to the shape and proportions of the main entrance door it shelters) and had much more substantial railings--perhaps of narrow sawn arcading under a wide moulding, such as still rail the tops of two bay windows. Opening onto the porch roof is a round-headed window-door centred above the main entrance below and repeating, though smaller, its form. Long, generally narrow, rectangular windows are to be found around the house, sometimes in triple groupings, and openings so grouped fill two slightly projecting, rectangular, one-storey wooden bay windows on the house's east and west sides. In the third storey of the tower windows are alternately of square and bull's-eye shape, while the four--only--of its top stage are round-headed. (Lest this dominant and trumpeting tower throw the entire upper composition of the house off balance, a large gabled dormer with

(See Continuation Sheet.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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MAR 7 1973	

(Number all entries) 7. Description.

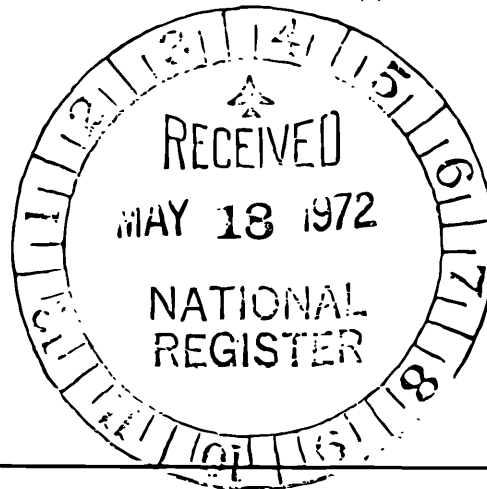
a flaring cornice is above the western bay which balances the tower, and chimneys are made tall skyline accents.) A gable on the east side of the house and one on its west side attract visual interest. A service wing which projects rearward from the north-west portion of the house was not intended to offer architectural interest or variety except for a long one-storey porch (now gone) on its east side.

The first floor contains a long centre hall (not preceded by any vestibule) with a curved stairway rising at the back. A small reception room is within the base of the tower, and to its north is a salon; across the hall is another drawing-room (or library), with the dining-room to its north and the service rooms beyond that. Arrangements in general are similar on the bedroom floor above, the tower there housing a boudoir. The stairs continue in a curve to the third floor, where there are small rooms for a variety of uses under the eaves and also a passage to the upper stages of the tower.

Most interior trim--including some elaborate plaster cornice and ceiling treatments, carved marble and wooden mantels, parquetry, prominent door and window mouldings etc.--survives, although the folding interior window shutters are gone, and some interior doors are replacements. Some minor changes and additions have lately been made in the north-eastern and north-western corners of the house--chiefly facilities for the convenience and service of guests.

After the departure of the Bailey family in the earlier part of this century the house entered upon use as a convent and a shelter for girls. Later it was transferred to the Dominican Order, whose Providence College had engulfed the house on all but its main frontage. The building fortunately had not suffered any severe internal changes or stripping, and in recent years the college has undertaken a commendable program of restoration, combined with appropriate re-decoration and re-furnishing, utilising the house as a place for official residence and for official entertaining.

There has been some thought that this house might possibly be attributed to the brilliant Rhode Island architect Thomas Alexander Tefft (1826-1859), who designed the adjoining and extant, but much quieter, villa of George M. Bradley, Bailey's law partner. However, this suggestion is not supported by any documentation among the numerous but incomplete Tefft papers and drawings.



B. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Bailey house is an important survivor among the large, well-sited and architecturally ambitious residences and "estates" which once rimmed Providence to its north and west and are now vanished. This house apparently has remained standing only because it was in continuous--if varied--use, and it has now happily returned to a use which is nearly that for which it was originally designed. Providence College has undertaken repair and furnishing of the house and means to continue, with proper advice, its restoration and architectural reinstatement--of which, luckily, not a great amount is required.

On an institutional campus which is not old and which until recently has been rather bald and unbeautiful, the Bailey house, with its driveway, its side lawn (to the west, stepped to through the dining-room bay window), its remaining trees and its new shrubbery plantings, stands out as a picturesque adornment, far more venerable and interesting than the college buildings closest to it. As originally intended, it commands its slope and attracts the eye.

The vigorous form of this house, its almost vocal announcement of itself and, in very Tuscan accents, of The Italian Villa Style make it a notable statement of one portion of both local and national architectural history. As now refurbished and re-used, this robust stone residence gives an excellent picture of the background, comforts and tastes of the prosperous and educated class in mid-XIX-Century America. The Bailey house is apparently promised good care in its own second century.

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.
 Little, Margaret Ruth: The Architecture of a Lamented Genius, Thomas Alexander Tefft (Thesis for Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, 1971), pp. 42-43.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 50' 30" N	71° 26' 06" W	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

DATE: Sept. 19, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence

STATE: Rhode Island, 02903

CODE: 44

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. Williams

Title

State Liaison Officer

Date

May 5, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

3/7/73

ATTEST:

W.D. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date

3.5.73

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