

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET 21

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1. Name: Samuel B. Conant House 080
2. Address: 104 Clay Street
Central Falls, RI
3. Owner: The Mansion, Inc.
104 Clay Street
Central Falls, RI
4. Description: The Conant House is one of the most elegant in the city, a massive, red brick and clapboard Colonial Revival composition of 2½ stories, set beneath a broad gambrel roof. The bulky form of the symmetrically arranged house is emphasized by the two broad curves of the facade which reach from the basement level to the dentil cornice and are topped by balustrades. An elaborate balustraded porch stretches across the facade, supported by Corinthian columns and enclosing the central entrance. The two panelled doors are set under an elliptical top lite and surrounded by side lights of leaded glass. Double-hung sash (for the most part 6/2) is surrounded by molded window frames. A three-part Palladian window is set in the center of the second story. Four dormers are lined across the gambrel roof - the two inner ones capped by simple triangular pediments, the two outer ones by broken scroll pediments.

The interior of the Conant House is equally elaborate. On the first floor, large rooms are arranged symmetrically around a central hallway. All rooms on this floor are decorated with largely scaled cornices and mantels in various Colonial Revival compositions. An ornate staircase, lit by a tall window on its landing is located at the back of the center hall. The rooms of the second floor are as highly decorated, though their scale is somewhat reduced. The third floor is furnished plainly with simpler mantels and originally served as maids' quarters.

The Conant House is now used as a nursing home. The transition to this new use has required a number of interior alterations; however, these changes have been made with some sympathy for the character of the house and many of them are reversible. The great stairway, for example, is now enclosed by a wall, but this wall is built inside the stair rail and leaves it unharmed. One of the four large rooms of the first floor has been modified into a nurses station; fire doors have been installed; and the Conant House has been connected to an adjacent building by a passageway constructed in the rear of the house.

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5. Date: 1895

6. Significance: The significance of the Conant House is primarily architectural, though the house is also associated with one of the leading industrial families of the Blackstone Valley. The house is the only fully developed example of the Colonial Revival in the city and is an accomplished and informative example of that style. In spite of its alterations to accommodate a new use, the Conant House is well preserved and is a unique architectural resource for Central Falls. Its architect is as yet unknown.

The house was built for Samuel M. Conant, president of Adam Sutcliffe, a Pawtucket printing firm. Samuel Conant was the son of Hezekiah Conant whose huge Conant Thread Works is nearby on the city line between Pawtucket and Central Falls. Hezekiah Conant himself lived in Central Falls, though his Stick Style mansion no longer stands.

7. Acreage: less than one acre

8. Plat 15, lot 21

9. UTM Reference 19.301660 4639340

See Photos # 6-10.