

FAMOUS MANSION BOUGHT BY MARSDEN J. PERRY.

THE GAMMELL HOUSE AT POWER AND BENEFIT STREETS IS SURPASSED BY ONLY ONE OTHER COLONIAL RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE RECENT SALE OF THE GAMMELL RESIDENCE AT THE CORNER OF POWER AND BENEFIT STREETS TO MARSDEN J. PERRY BRINGS ONCE MORE INTO PUBLIC NOTICE ONE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES OF PROVIDENCE. A GENUINE COLONIAL RESIDENCE, BUILT MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, THE HOUSE STANDS TODAY UNCHANGED SINCE ITS ERECTION, AND IS STILL ONE OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT RESIDENCES IN THE CITY. ONLY ONE HOUSE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE BROWTON HOUSE, CHARLESTOWN MASS., CAN BE SAID TO SURPASS IT AS A TYPE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COLONIAL DWELLINGS. THE GAMMELL HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1786 FOR JOHN BROWN.

NOT ONLY THE HOUSE ITSELF, BUT THE GROUNDS ABOUT IT AS WELL, ARE MUCH THE SAME AS THEY WERE PLANNED BY THEIR ORIGINAL OWNER. GIGANTIC ELMS THAT LOOK AS THOUGH THEY MIGHT BE SURVIVORS OF THE PRIMEVAL FOREST, TAKE THE PLACE OF THE SHRUBBERY THAT USUALLY FORMS THE ORNAMENTATION OF THE GROUNDS OF MODERN RESIDENCES OF LIKE PRETENSIONS. THESE GROUNDS ARE ABOUT AN ACRE IN EXTENT. THE ENTRANCE TO THE PREMISES IS EQUAL IN ITS WAY, FROM AN ARTISTIC STANDPOINT, TO THE HOUSE ITSELF. HEAVY MAHOGANY GATES HUNG ON BROWN STONE POSTS 10 FEET IN HEIGHT AND SURMOUNTED BY MARBLE BUSTS, MAKE AN IMPOSING PORTAL. ON EITHER SIDE OF THE GATES IS A HEAVY WALL OF BRICK INTO WHICH IS BUILT THE STAIRWAY THAT LEADS FROM THE STREET.

THE HOUSE STANDS WELL BACK FROM THE STREET ON SLIGHTLY RISING GROUND. ITS SHAPE EXCLUDING AN "L" WHICH WAS ADDED TO IT ABOUT A HALF CENTURY AGO, IS VERY NEARLY THAT OF A CUBE, ALWAYS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE PERFECT TYPE OF COLONIAL ARCHITECTURE. IT WAS BUILT OF BRICK, IMPORTED FROM ENGLAND, LAID IN WHITE MORTAR. A HEAVY BALUSTRADE FOLLOWING THE EAVES COMPLETELY AROUND THE STRUCTURE ORNAMENTS THE TOP OF THE BUILDING. THE MAIN DOORWAY OPENS ON TO A PORCH SUPPORTED BY TWO LARGE BROWNSTONE COLUMNS.

THE HOUSE IS THREE STORIES IN HEIGHT AND ON EACH FLOOR THERE ARE FOUR ROOMS, TWO ON EACH SIDE OF THE LONG HALLWAY, WHICH EXTENDS THROUGH THE LENGTH OF THE HOUSE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. IN THE BASEMENT ARE KITCHENS AND LAUNDRIES.

AMONG THE ATTRACTIVE FEATURES OF THE INTERIOR, ALL AS OLD AND ARTISTIC AS THE HOUSE ITSELF, ARE TWO ROUND PEDESTALS, SIX FEET IN HEIGHT, UPON WHICH REST MARBLE BUSTS IN THE MAIN HALLWAY; THE LONG, MAIN STAIRCASE WITH RAIL AND BALUSTERS OF BEAUTIFULLY POLISHED MAHOGANY; THE DOORWAY LEADING FROM THE PARLOR INTO THE LIBRARY, ORNAMENTED WITH TWO PILASTERS, SUPPORTING BUSTS OF DIANA AND JUNO; THE ARCHED WINDOWS IN THE RECEPTION ROOM LOOKING OUT ONTO BENEFIT STREET, WITH AN OLD FASHIONED FIREPLACE BETWEEN THEM, AND MANY OTHER BITS OF DECORATION, WHICH WITH ALL THE ARTS OF TODAY CANNOT BE FAITHFULLY REPRODUCED.

THE RESIDENCE WAS FOR MANY YEARS OWNED BY THE GAMMELL FAMILY. IT FIRST BELONGED TO ROBERT IVES, WHO PRESENTED IT TO HIS DAUGHTER WHEN SHE BECAME THE WIFE OF PROF. WILLIAM GAMMELL. UPON HER DEATH MRS. GAMMELL BEQUEATHED THE PROPERTY TO HER TWO DAUGHTERS, HARRIET IVES, NOW MRS. THOMAS SHAW SAFE, AND HELEN LOUISE, NOW THE WIFE OF ARTHUR HERBERT. THE HUSBANDS OF BOTH OF THE DAUGHTERS ARE ENGLISHMEN.

AFTER THE DEATH OF ARTHUR GAMMELL, A SON, THE FAMILY USED THE OLD RESIDENCE VERY LITTLE, LIVING EITHER IN NEWPORT OR IN EUROPE. THE DEATH OF MRS. GAMMELL AND THE MARRIAGE OF THE TWO DAUGHTERS TO WHOM THE HOMESTEAD WAS BEQUEATHED CAUSED THE FAMILY TO GIVE UP ITS RESIDENCE IN PROVIDENCE, AND THE PROPERTY WAS, THEREFORE, PLACED IN THE HANDS OF A BROKER TO BE SOLD. MR. PERRY IS VERY MUCH PLEASED WITH HIS PURCHASE. HE SAYS THAT NOTHING IN THE WORLD COULD INDUCE HIM TO MAKE ANY CHANGE IN THE HISTORIC OLD MANSION. A FEW NECESSARY REPAIRS TO THE SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE THE ONLY WORK THAT WILL BE DONE ON THE HOUSE BEFORE ITS OWNER OCCUPIES IT.