

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name: Whipple-Angell-Bennett House

other name/site number: Home Stead Farm

2. Location

street & number: 157 Olney Avenue

not for publication: N/A

city/town: North Providence vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Providence code: 007 zip code: 02911

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Property name Whipple-Angell-Bennett House, Prov. County, Rhode Island

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

_____ See continuation sheet.

Frederick C. Williamson
Signature of certifying official

19 June 1995
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

_____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
 - _____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
 - _____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
 - _____ removed from the National Register _____
 - _____ other (explain): _____
- Signature of Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Property name Whipple-Angell-Bennett House, Prov. County, Rhode Island

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

COLONIAL

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation	<u>STONE/granite</u>	roof	<u>WOOD/shingle</u>
walls	<u>WOOD/weatherboard</u>	other	_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1767 ca.1850

Significant Dates: 1767 ca. 1850

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre (7500 square feet)

UTM References:			Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>19</u>	<u>295370</u>	<u>4635770</u>	B	_____	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Wm McKenzie Woodward/Architectural Historian

Organization: R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission Date: 4/95

Street & Number: 150 Benefit Street Telephone: 401-277-2678

City or Town: Providence State: RI ZIP: 02903

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Description

Facing south-southwest on a plateau near the top of Fruit Hill, the Whipple-Angell-Bennett House is a rectilinear Z-plan dwelling with three distinct sections: the southernmost one-and-a-half-story gambrel-roof, center-chimney, four-bay-façade main block (1767); a rear ell (ca 1850) perpendicular to the main block on the northeast corner, and a wing (ca 1890 et seq.)¹ perpendicular to and extending east from the north end of the first ell. The interior of the original section followed the standard five-room plan, modified minimally in the mid- and late nineteenth century. Interior spatial configuration and materials retain a high degree of integrity.

The main block of the house is thirty-three feet wide and twenty-five feet deep. The façade's first story is organized into four bays (A-A-B-A), with a simple five-light transom entrance located just east of center; the lower slope of the roof has three regularly spaced pedimented dormers. Windows on the south, east, and west elevations of the house have heavy pegged frames, and most have molded sills. First-story façade windows have nine-over-nine-pane double-hung sash, and dormer windows have small six-over-six-pane double-hung sash.

On the interior, the center entrance leads to the front stair hall.² The simple front stairs, in front of the chimney block, rise through eleven steep, worn treads behind a wall between stairs and hall; there is no newel or railing. The southwest parlor has cased, beaded posts capped with cyma-recta molding and a beveled-panel chimney breast with bolection molding around the firebox; an above-firebox cabinet with glazed doors, each originally divided into eight lights corresponding to cabinet shelves;³ and

¹See discussion in Section 8 about the house's evolution as well as photograph #1.

²Paint scraping done in this space in May 1995 revealed that the woodwork in the front hall was originally painted with a false-graining pattern.

³Profiles of the muntins remain within the rails and stiles of the doors.

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cyma-recta ceiling molding. The southeast parlor, originally the kitchen,⁴ has cased, beaded posts, a large firebox with a simple one-story Greek Revival mantel, and a hearth that extends north beyond the firebox. The kitchen, immediately north of the southeast parlor and connected with it through the back hall and back stairs, occupies the northeast corner of the main block and the 1850 ell; its low peripheral wainscot and oak floor postdate the Greek Revival mantel that stood on the north wall. The northwest room connects with the kitchen through a broad, flat-arch opening and with the southwest parlor through a similar opening⁵; it was reconfigured from at least two other rooms sometime in the nineteenth century, when the firebox in its southeast corner was filled. North of the main block and west of the kitchen ell is a knotty-pine-paneled sun room with slate floor. Behind the kitchen is a service passage, once a galley kitchen, and a bathroom. In the wing perpendicular to the kitchen ell is a large room, fifteen by twenty-five feet, with knotty pine paneling installed in the 1940s, a fireplace centered on the north wall, and a loft at the east end over the garage. The east end of the wing incorporates a garage with folding doors.

On the front stairs in the main block of the house, midway between the first and second stories is the door to a smoke chamber, which retains both chinked bricks for releasing smoke from the southeast parlor's chimney stack and the rack for smoking meat. On the second story are three rooms and a bath room. The southeast and southwest chambers have bevel-panel chimney breasts with open shelves above their fireboxes and, to the south of the fireplace in each room, cupboards with two-panel doors. Floorboards on the second story are eighteen to twenty-two inches wide.

⁴The placement of the kitchen in the southeast corner of the eighteenth-century five-room plan occurs principally in Providence and Kent Counties. Other examples, all listed in the National Register, include the Benjamin Cushing House (ca 1737), 38 North Court Street, Providence; Eddy Homestead (ca 1790), 2543 Hartford Avenue, Johnston; and Windy Parks Farm (1812), 2414 Harkney Hill Road, Coventry.

⁵Removal of paint from woodwork in May 1995 revealed that the broad opening between the southwest parlor and the northwest room originally framed two doors that led into two separate rooms, one on the northwest corner and one in the north center of the original block of the house.

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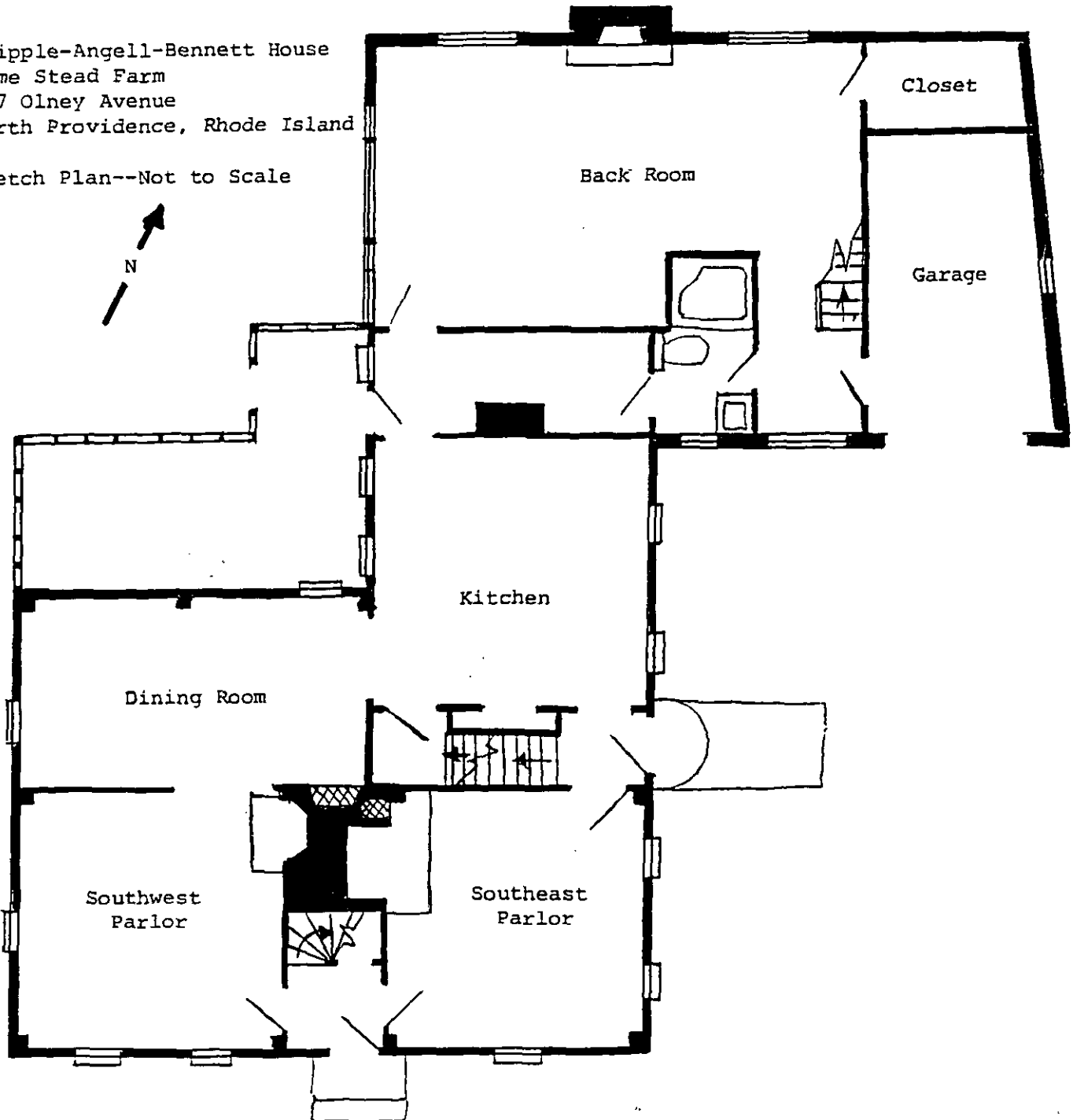
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Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
Home Stead Farm
157 Olney Avenue
North Providence, Rhode Island

Sketch Plan--Not to Scale



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Photographs

3. Photographer: Unknown
4. Date: Unknown
5. Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
6. View: Exterior, view to northwest, ca.1900
7. Photo #1

The following information for items 3-5 apply to photos 2-8

3. Photographer: Joseph J. Handly
4. Date: April, 1995
5. Negative: R.I. Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission
6. View: Exterior, view to northwest
7. Photo #2

6. View: Exterior, view to southeast
7. Photo #3

6. View: Front stairs, view to north
7. Photo #4

6. View: Southwest parlor, view to northeast
7. Photo #5

6. View: Southeast parlor, view to northwest
7. Photo #6

6. View: Southwest chamber, second story, view to northeast
7. Photo #7

6. View: Back room, view to northwest
7. Photo #8

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Significance

The Whipple-Angell-Bennett House is significant to the history of architecture because of its ability to document both vernacular architecture of the third quarter of the eighteenth century in its largely intact original section and the evolution of domestic use in its extensions to the north and east between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth century, as its setting changed from open farmland to suburban residential neighborhood.

History of the property's ownership helps to illuminate the evolution of the house. On 30 July 1766, Stephen Whipple (1735-?), a shoemaker, purchased approximately fifty-five acres of the family farm at Fruit Hill from his father, Benjamin (1688-1788), and soon began construction of his "Home Stead Farm."⁶ In 1776 he moved to Chester, Massachusetts, and sold the property to his first cousin Jabez Whipple (1734-1833), who lived here until 1800. William Angell bought the property in 1822, and his son William H. Angell inherited half interest in the property in 1850, when he also bought his sister's interest from her. Angell sold the property in 1872, and the property changed hands five times in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries until purchased by the Reverend Edmund C. Bennett in March 1921. By 1921, the property was reduced to approximately 7500 square feet, its current size. It remained in Bennett ownership until 1995.

The more intact of only two surviving gambrel-roof farmhouses in the Town of North Providence, the Whipple-Angell-Bennett House is typical of modest rural Rhode Island farmhouses of the mid-eighteenth century. The story-and-a-half, gambrel-roof, center-chimney form commonly occurred across the state throughout the eighteenth century, and a number of examples are listed in the National Register.⁷ As such, this house retains a high level of integrity, including spatial configuration, and building components such as woodwork, plaster, doors, and hinges.

⁶Pawtucket Land Evidence Records, Book 1, Page 45 and Book 2, Page 6.

⁷Other examples include the Chace-Cory House (1730), 3908 Main Road, Tiverton; Jeremiah Dexter House (1754), 957 North Main Street, Providence; Joseph Jeffrey House, (18th century), Town House Road, Charlestown; and Joy Homestead (1764), 156 Scituate Avenue, Cranston.

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Few changes to the house appear to have been made before ca 1850. About that time, when William H. Angell became the owner, the house was enlarged. This remodeling included expanding the northeast corner room into an ell including a kitchen with pantries at the north end, creating a back stair just north of the old kitchen, and moving the door in the old kitchen from the center to the east end of the north wall. At that time, the baking oven north of the original cooking fireplace was sealed, and the Greek Revival mantel was installed.⁸ A similar smaller mantel, flanked by doors to pantries, was installed at the north end of the new kitchen. In the later nineteenth century—probably after William Angell sold the house—an oak floor and wainscoting were installed in the kitchen.⁹

By the end of the nineteenth century, outbuildings north of the mid-nineteenth-century ell had been connected to the main block of the house, as seen in Photo #1, giving it much the present configuration. The spatial configuration and interior finish of the wing at that time remain unknown. In the 1940s, the wing was finished as one large room with gallery at the east end over the garage and adjacent bathroom and galley kitchen—all sheathed in the knotty pine paneling then popular for recreation rooms. Probably at the same time, the L-plan sun porch was added on the northwest corner in the nook of the L between the main block and the mid-nineteenth-century ell. Such improvements were then becoming fashionable in suburban residences, which this dwelling had become by the mid-twentieth century.

⁸The changes to the southeast parlor were revealed in the plaster when wallpaper was removed in 1995.

⁹When the kitchen mantel was removed in March 1995, physical evidence made clear that the floor and wainscot postdated the mantel.

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Major Bibliographical References

City of Pawtucket. Land Evidence Records. (before 1874).

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. Historic and Architectural Resources of North Providence, Rhode Island: A Preliminary Report. 1978.

Town of North Providence. Land Evidence Records. (1874-present).

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Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The property nominated includes all of North Providence Tax Assessor's Plat 8 Lots 451 and 698. These two parcels are all that remain of the of the land historically associated with the property.



Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
Providence County R.I. Photo # 1079



Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
Providence County, R.I.
Photo #2 of 8



Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
Providence County, R.I.
Photo #3 of 8

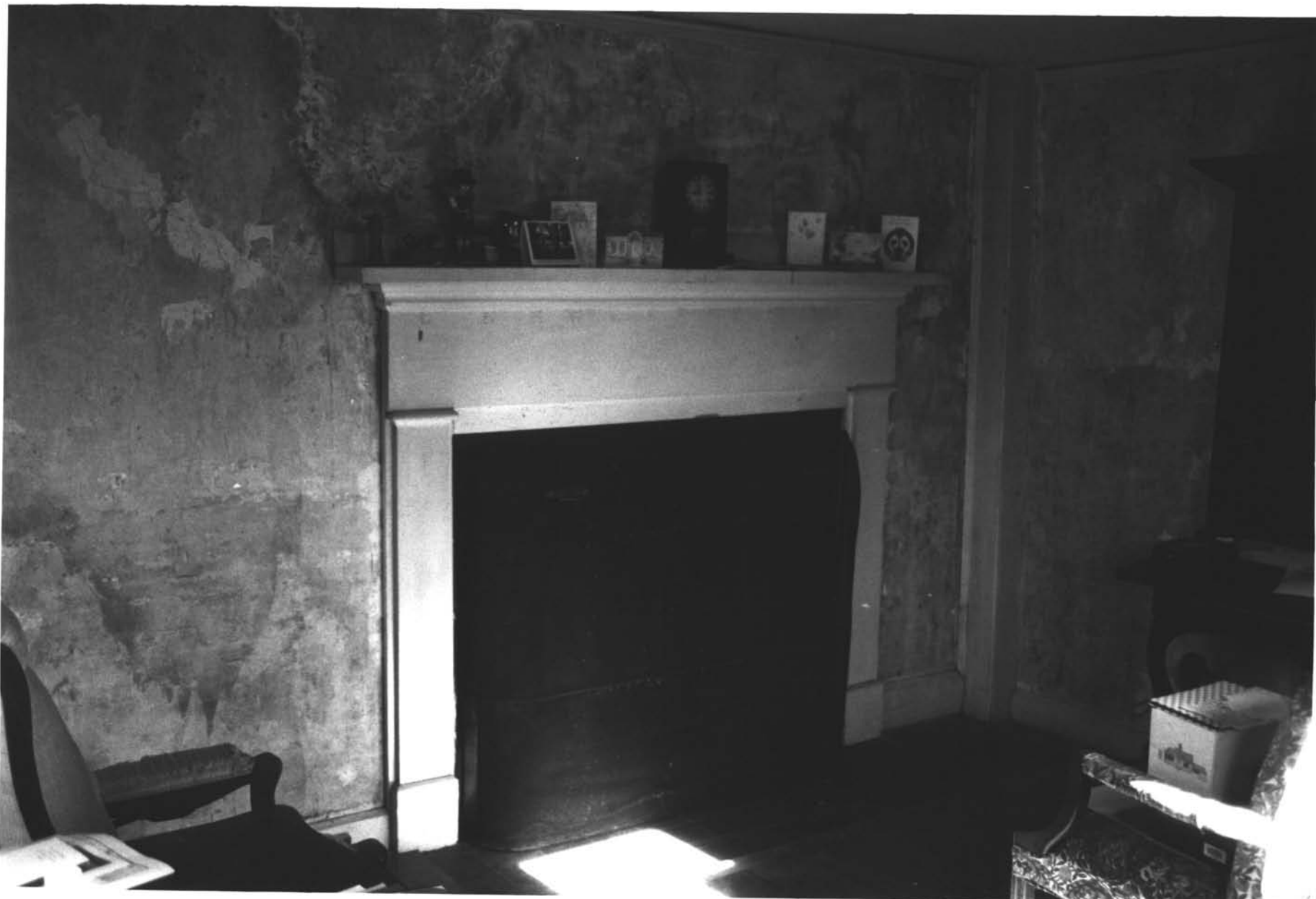


Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
Providence County, R.I.
Photo #4 of 8



Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
Providence County, R.I.

Photo #5 of 8



Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
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Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
Providence County, R.I.
Photo # 7 of 9



Whipple-Angell-Bennett House
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Whipple-Angell-Bennett
House
Providence County, R.I. 4636
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