


6-1-1935

Calendar of Events June 1935

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44 Benevolent Street
Providence, Rhode Island

Mr. & Mrs. Phillip D. Creer
26 Jenkes St.
Providence, R. I.

(Sec. 435 1/2 PL & R)
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Providence, R. I.
PERMIT No. 101

~~Valley 138 - R -
Walter Colvin
Wm Reeds Address~~

~~Take Prospect Dwg -
to Mr Farming
see Miss Gortland
look up small house.~~

Be home by 5:30
going on picnic.

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT



CALENDAR
of
ART EVENTS

~~Keep
Article on
1st Baptist
House~~

June
1935

Volume Two

Number Nine

The Baptists in Providence agreed, in 1774, to build a new meeting house. Mr. John Brown, one of the famous "Four Brothers," was placed in charge of the work and eleven other men were appointed to give him such help as he might require. They were to meet at their houses in rotation, beginning at Mr. Brown's on May 9th.



ENGRAVING FOR SPIRE OF SAINT-MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS
(From Gibbs's Book of Architecture 1728)

THE FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

One of this group was John Brown's older brother, Joseph. He was a scholarly man who was later to hold the chair of Experimental Philosophy in Rhode Island College, for whose Commencements the new building was to provide. He had already served on the committee "to prepare a complete model" for the college building — University Hall. He had good taste and a knowledge of architecture as well as a liking for it, since his inventory shows that he had, in his North Parlor, a Goddard secretary in which were "Gibbs's Architecture" and Swan's "Designs." This fact determined the design of the Meeting House, when, early in March, 1774, Mr. Brown, with two carpenters, Jonathan Hammond, with whom he had already examined the ecclesiastical buildings of Boston, and Comfort Wheaton were appointed to "make a draught of a House."

In this Mr. Brown took the lead. He turned to the churches in the book of James Gibbs, a church architect second only to Sir Christopher Wren. Two of these interested him and his aids. One was St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the other was Marybone Chapel which was less elaborate. Mr. Brown chose the interior of this for the Meeting House, and, while the proportions are not the same, the characteristics of the Chapel all reappear.

The Meeting House is basilican in plan, that is, it has a central nave and two aisles. The nave is covered with

an elliptical barrel vault, which Gibbs, for acoustic reasons, preferred to the semicircular form used by Wren. Above the aisles are galleries which are covered with groined vaults. The gallery vaults in St. Martin's are much more complicated.

The plan is a square in which each side is eighty feet



WATER COLOR ABOUT 1800
(From Collection of Mr. William Davis Miller)

long. Few people realize this, for the two lines of columns cut the room into three parts and direct the attention to the central space. This square plan was inherited from the New England meeting house, originally a square building with a pulpit in the middle of one side, a door opposite to it and two other doors, one in each of the other sides. The First Baptist adds two more, one at each side of the pulpit.

For the spire Mr. Brown turned to St. Martin-in-the-Fields. For this part of his church Gibbs had made four designs. One was used and appears in the drawings of the church. The other three Gibbs published also, in his book, grouped on one page. The middle spire of this group Mr. Brown selected for the Meeting House and thus gave Providence the finest Renaissance spire in the country.

When, with his two carpenter assistants, Mr. Brown had finished the "draught," he worked out with Messrs. John Menckes, John Brown and Cahoon, in August, 1774, a "Calculation of the cost of the Meeting House," a most valuable document.

On the third of June ground was broken for the foundations. On August 27 the managers of the lottery announced the drawings of the first class and the Building Committee added that the raising of the Meeting House would begin on Monday, August 29.

The Boston Port Bill, which had been passed on March 31, 1774, paralyzed the industries of Boston, and the



A S.W. View of the BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE, Providence, R I

knowledge that a large building was under way in Providence brought an influx of carpenters. Among these was James Sumner. We know from John Howland that he was here soon after the work began and by March, 1775 he was in some responsible position. His undoubted skill was soon put to use. Mr. Brown had selected the design for the spire but Gibbs's plat had been drawn to a very small scale, about a twelfth of an inch to the foot. A large drawing had to be made and the orders, with the mouldings and other details needed to be worked out, a matter requiring much practical skill and experience. Either in this drawing, which was made by Mr. Sumner, undoubtedly under Mr. Brown's control, or in the original "draught" itself, the spire, below the spike, was changed from the cylinder in Gibbs's drawing to an octagonal block. This was a distinct improvement.

The **Providence Gazette**, on June 10, 1775, said: "Last Tuesday the Raising of the Steeple, which lasted three Days and a Half, was finished, and from a Draft thereof, on a large Scale made by Mr. James Sumner, Master Workman from Boston, as well as from the frame now raised, 'tis thought it will be a most elegant Piece of Architecture." The thought has been amply justified.

NORMAN MORRISON ISHAM.



THE FIRST BAPTIST MEETING HOUSE

CONNECTICUT

Hartford—Avery Memorial.

Massive Collection, Connecticut Tercentenary Furniture exhibition. June 15-Oct. 15.

Connecticut prints and book plates. Sept. 15-Oct. 15. (closed Mondays)

New Haven—Yale Gallery of Fine Arts.

Connecticut portraits by Samuel F. B. Morse. June 1-July 21.

Paintings by John Trumbull. June 1-Oct. 1.

Connecticut portraits by Ralph Earl. Aug. 1-Oct. 1.

Connecticut silver and prints. Aug. 1-Oct. 1.

New London—Lyman Museum.

Connecticut Tercentenary exhibitions: American furniture, glass, pottery, and wrought iron. May 15-Oct. 1.

(closed Mondays)

MAINE

Ogunquit—Art Association.

Summer exhibitions. July 1-Sept. 2.

MASSACHUSETTS

Andover—Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy.

Contemporary American water-colors. May 27-June 25.

Portraits and furniture owned by residents of Andover and vicinity. July 10-Sept. 3.

(Hours: 1-5 after July 1)

Attleboro—Museum of Art, Attleboro Public Library.

Industrial arts exhibition. June 1-8.

(Hours: 3-5, 7-9)

Boston—Museum of Fine Arts.

White embroidery. May 22-July 3.

Arts of the theatre in Java from Mr. Herbert Stowitts. June-Sept.

Picture of the week. June-Sept. 15.

Recent finds at Ravy. June 15-July 10.

Etchings by Frank Benson. Aug. 1-31.

Fifteenth century Italian engravings, etchings by Callot, contemporary English prints, and old master drawings.

(closed Mondays)

The Guild of Boston Artists, 162 Newbury Street.

Exhibition by members of the Guild. June 1-29.

Concord—Art Association, 16 Lexington Road.

Paintings by H. Dudley Murphy and watercolors by Nelly Littlehale Murphy. June-Aug. 1.

Sculpture and woodcarvings by Mary O. Abbott. June-Aug. 1.

Watercolors and etchings. Aug. 1-Nov. 1.

Fitchburg—Art Center

Sixth annual local show. June 2-30.

Paintings by members of the Boston Art Club. July 1-14.

Sculpture by Esther Jackson. Aug. 1-31.

(closed Mondays)

SUMMER EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

RHODE ISLAND

Providence—Faunce House Art Gallery, Brown University.

Exhibition of work done by students in the art classes at Brown. May 20-June 18.

Providence Art Club.

Traveling exhibition of the Boston Art Club. June 4-13.

Summer exhibition. June 14-Sept. 22.

Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design.

Exhibition of works by younger European and American artists from the private collection of Mrs. John W. Garrett of Baltimore. June 20-Sept.

The Armour Gallery, Millen's Book Store, 83 Weybosset Street.

Etchings by Ernest Lumsden, Joseph Pennell and others.

June-Sept.

Mauk-Murray Studios.

Etchings by McBey, Le Pere, Hayden, Cameron, and Lumsden. June-Sept.

Mezzotints by Edwards, Gulland, and Wilson. June-Sept.

Tilden-Thurber Gallery.

Paintings, etchings and mezzotints. June-Sept.

Nathaniel M. Vose Gallery.

Summer exhibition of oils, watercolors, and etchings by contemporary artists. June-Sept.

Newport—The Art Association of Newport.

World travel posters. June 3-15.

Young Rhode Island artists. June 22-July 6.

Twenty-fourth annual exhibition. July 13-Aug. 3.

Watercolors, drawings, and prints. Aug. 12-Sept. 2.

Robert C. Vose Galleries. Aug. 7-28.

Eastern Fabrics. Sept. 21.

Peace Dale—South County Art Association.

Annual exhibition of watercolors, prints, etc. July 9-21.

Oil paintings—July 30-Aug. 11.

Wickford—South County Museum.

Tools, implements, instruments, household arts, toys and games, costumes, etc. of early New England. June 15-Sept. 29.

(Open Saturdays and Sundays, 2-6 P. M.)

NEW YORK

New York City—Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Oriental rugs and textiles, Gallery D6. June-Sept. 15.

Prints by William Hogarth, Galleries K38-40. June-Sept.

Egyptian acquisitions, 1933-1934.

The Museum of Modern Art.

American and European paintings, watercolors, prints and sculpture. June 5-Sept. 15.

East Gloucester—North Shore Arts Association.

Summer exhibitions. June 29-Sept. 15.

Nantucket—Easy Street Gallery.

Summer exhibitions. Aug. 1-Sept. 1.

Northampton—Smith College Museum of Art.

The permanent collection, supplemented by important loans including canvases by David, Dali, Monet, Matisse, Renoir and Picasso. June-Sept.

(Hours: 2:30-4:30 after June 17)

Pittsfield—The Berkshire Museum.

Photographs by William F. Winter of Schenectady. June 8-22.

Oil paintings by Leo Blake. June 3-23.

Seven oil paintings by DeWitt Peters of Old Chatham, N. Y. June 15-29.

Early Italian paintings from the collection of Mr. Frank C. Smith, Jr. of Worcester. June 24-July 8.

Paintings from the Whitney Museum of American Art, N. Y. Aug. 1-Sept. 16.

Wellesley—Farnsworth Museum, Wellesley College.

Students' work, 1934-35. June-Sept.

Williamstown—Lawrence Art Museum, Williams College.

Yesterday and today, comparison and contrast. June 1-20.

Paintings by North Berkshire artists. Aug. 1-31.

Paintings from the Corcoran Biennial. Sept. 1-30.

Worcester—Worcester Art Museum.

Worcester County artists exhibitions. June 9-30.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Manchester—Currier Gallery of Art, 192 Orange Street.

Exhibition of African Art from the Museum of Modern Art. June 10-July 8.

Photographs of Landscape Architecture from Vitale & Geiffert. June 1-July 1.

Pencil sketches by Mrs. Helen Mason Grose, Providence, R. I. June 1-July 1.

Merrimack Valley Art Association. July 1-31.

Invited exhibition of paintings and sculpture by New Hampshire artists. July 1-31.

Exhibition of two groups of canvases selected from the 14th Biennial at the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C. Aug. 4-Sept. 1.

Etchings by the Society of American Etchers. Aug. 1-Sept. 30.

Arts of the theatre in Java from Mr. Herbert Stowitts. Sept.-Oct.

Water-colors by Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Bill. Sept.-Oct.

VERMONT

Manchester—Burr and Burton Gymnasium.

Southern Vermont artists exhibition. Aug. 25-Sept. 4.

Flemming Museum, Burlington Street.

Northern Vermont artists exhibition. May 19-June 24.