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Calendar of Events December 1937

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COMMUNITY ART PROJECT



CALENDAR of ART EVENTS

December—January
1936—1937

Volume Four

Number Two



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The Survey of Historic Buildings, now being conducted in Rhode Island, is part of a nation-wide project organized in the latter part of 1933 by the Branch of Plans and Design of the National Park Service in Washington, and financed by Federal relief funds. It was developed to enroll unemployed architects, draftsmen and photographers to secure, by means of measured drawings, photographs and historical data, as complete a record as possible of the rapidly disappearing examples of the early architecture of this country. This was the first real effort on the part of the Federal Government to catalog and preserve our historical architectural treasures from unrecorded oblivion.

The project was first carried on under the Civil Works Administration with the field to be covered including all States but six of the Northwest, where a scarcity of historical material and relatively few unemployed architects made the work there unnecessary. During the short period of operation from January 1 to May 1, 1934, when the program officially ended, the work accomplished was so successful and so universally approved that the National Park Service, the American Institute of Architects, and the Library of Congress combined to insure that all future enterprises of the same nature should be collected to form a continuous development of the HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY.

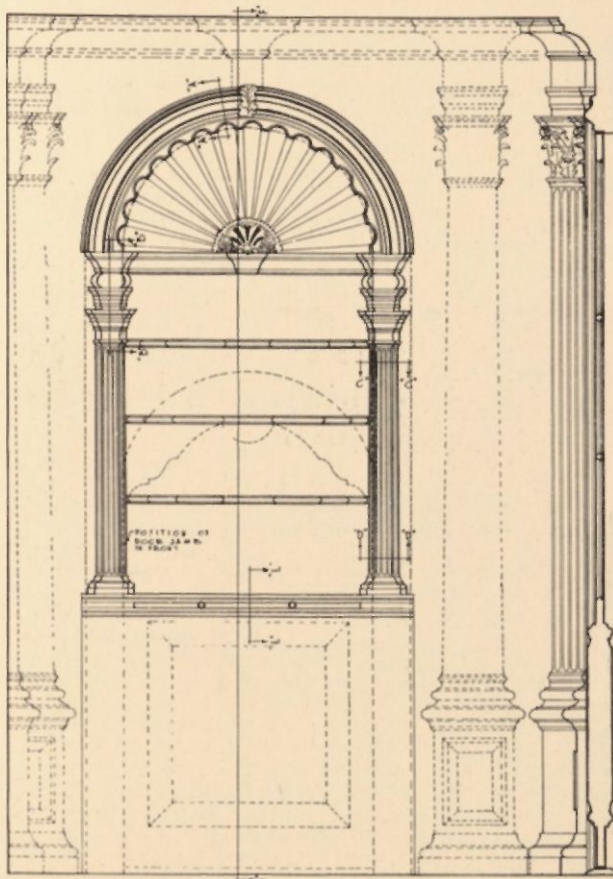
Following a period during 1934-35, when a number of the States made use of emergency relief funds to continue the valuable work, a more thorough national program was resumed through the appropriation of Public Works funds, so that now, under the WORKS

Among the buildings of the earliest period which have been measured, the Thomas Clemence House in Johnston, the Valentine-Whitman House in Limerock, and the Searle House in Oaklawn are especially interesting.

The Clemence House, sometimes called the Manton House or the Sweet-Irons House, is one of the earliest houses in the State. The stone-end chimney with its pilastered top probably dates from 1654. The house itself, a one-room structure, was burned during the Indian War and was rebuilt about 1689. It has suffered many alterations during the years, but the original one-room portion and an addition, which was added at an early date, probably around 1750, are still to be seen. Two sets of drawings of this house have been prepared: one reproducing the house as it is today, and another restoring as nearly as is known the original one-room house.

The Valentine-Whitman House, built in 1694, at first a two-story four-room house with a stone-end pilastered chimney, has also been altered considerably but with less devastating effect. The chimney top has been replaced by one of brick, the house has been lengthened by some ten feet, and the windows have been changed at least twice from the original leaded paned ones. But the structural members, many of them exposed and uncased, remain today exactly as they were when the house was erected, so that the original house may easily be traced. It is interesting to note that in both this house and in the Clemence House the original huge stone fireplaces have been reduced by succeed-

THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY



PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION, the work is continuing in almost all the states where historic buildings exist.

In Rhode Island, as in other States, the work is carried on under the direction of a District Officer who is assisted by consultation with a District Advisory Committee. The Chairman of the Rhode Island Advisory Committee, Mr. Norman M. Isham, whose authoritative

ing generations through the introduction of smaller brick fireplaces and finally by closing them up altogether. Isometric perspectives of the framework of both houses



MEASURED DRAWING AND PHOTOGRAPH OF A CUPBOARD IN THE HUNTER HOUSE, NEWPORT

works on Early American Architecture are well known, and the other members of the Committee, Mr. John Nicholas Brown, Mr. Howard M. Chapin, Mrs. George E. Downing, and Mr. J. Peter Geddes, have been of inestimable assistance in selecting the buildings to be recorded, in authenticating historical data, and in determining original construction from later additions.

The list of 243 structures in Rhode Island selected by Mr. Isham as worthy of being permanently recorded, gives an idea of the wealth of material remaining in this comparatively small area, despite the ravages of an Indian War, and loss through fire, elements of nature, demolition, and alteration. The buildings are selected for measurement according to their priority in architectural and historic significance, the danger of their destruction or alteration, and their accessibility in comparison with other buildings listed.

One of the first buildings to be measured and photographed was one of the least altered but one of the most poorly cared for. The house, built about 1763, is on Meeting Street just east of North Main Street, and is known as "Shakespeare's Head". Its architectural and historic significance have been admirably described in the November 1935 issue of this Calendar by Mr. John Hutchins Cady. It was here that the first weekly newspaper in Providence was printed. Shakespeare's Head also housed, for a time, the Colonial Post Office, and the Book Shop of John Carter, Printer and Postmaster. It is hoped that some day the building may be restored and maintained as one of a chain of historic buildings of the Colonial Period in this State, as is being done elsewhere.

have been developed as being typical of the seventeenth century Rhode Island one and two-story houses.

The Searle House in Oaklawn, the original part of which was a one-room stone-end structure built about 1700, has been greatly added to through the years. The owners, who are making a very careful restoration, have uncovered the structure in the original house and have found the floor timbers nicely chamfered, and the posts morticed and bracketed; an odd shaped trap-door cut in the ceiling boards was so placed, it is said, to allow the slaves to climb by a ladder to the loft above.

Altho many of the houses which have been measured have been allowed to deteriorate to an unbelievable extent, as have the Micah Spencer House on Thames Street, Newport, and the Samuel Warner House and Daniel Jenckes House, both in Providence, still others, like the Jeremiah Dexter House on North Main Street, the Captain Joseph Tillinghast House at 403 South Main Street, and the Hunter House in Newport, have been admirably maintained by their owners. But whatever their condition, measured drawings and photographs of these old buildings form an important and comprehensive record of our early architecture.

The material, when completed, is filed in the Library of Congress under the direction of Dr. Leicester B. Holland, A. I. A., Chief of the Fine Arts Division, and is available for reproduction. It is to be hoped that such a worthwhile project may be continued even after the emergency which created it has passed.

PHILIP D. CREER,
District Officer for Rhode Island.

EXHIBITIONS OUTSIDE OF RHODE ISLAND

New Haven, Conn., Gallery of Fine Arts, Yale University
 Dec. 15-22—Work of Members of the P. Alpha Society.
 Dec. 31-Jan. 17—Work for Index of American Design.
 Jan. 18-Feb. 1—Paintings by Gilbert Banever.

Andover, Mass., Addison Gallery, Phillips Academy
 Dec. 1-20—Paintings and Pastels by Glen Cooper Henshaw, and Drawings by John P. Whitman.
 Jan. 5-Feb. 10—Methods of Painting and Print Making.

Boston, Mass., Guild of Boston Artists
 Dec. 14-26—Exhibition by Members of the Guild.
 Dec. 28-Jan. 9—Sculpture by Philip S. Sears.
 Jan. 11-23—Water-colors by Nelly Littlehale Murphy.

Boston, Mass., Museum of Fine Arts
 Jan.—Anniversary Exhibition of the Print Department.

Cambridge, Mass., Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University
 Dec. 1-31—Old Master Drawings, XV-XVII Centuries; Chinese Paintings VIII-IX Centuries; Four New Loans: Delacroix, Corot, Degas, and Manet; Masterpieces of Graphic Art.
 Jan. 1-31—Persian Pottery and Paintings.

Cambridge, Mass., Germanic Museum
 Dec. 2-19—Paintings by Karl Hofer and Hans Beohler.
 Dec. 21-Jan. 11—Frescoes and Drawings by Lewis W. Rubenstein.

Northampton, Mass., Smith College Museum of Art
 Dec. 8-18—Russian Icons (with reproductions); French Drawings—17th to 19th Centuries.
 Jan. 5-25—The Technique of Painting.
 Jan. 20-Feb. 28—Winslow Homer Water-colors, Drawings, and Prints.

Springfield, Mass., Museum of Fine Arts
 Dec. 7-28—Modern Artists and Sculptors as Illustrators.
 Dec. 1-31—American Artists Graphic Exhibition.
 Jan. 1-15—Four Modern Painters.
 Jan. 16-Feb. 7—Springfield Art League Exhibition.

Wellesley, Mass., Farnsworth Museum
 Jan. 8-30—Work of Lessing W. Williams, architect.

Worcester, Mass., Worcester Art Museum
 Dec. 2-20—Selected Group from the Fifth National Ceramic Exhibition, Assembled and Circulated by the Syracuse Museum of Fine Arts.
 Jan. 6-24—American Political Caricature, Prints and Drawings lent by the American Antiquarian Society together with Prints from the Goodspeed Collection.

New York, N. Y., Museum of Modern Art
 Dec. 10-Jan. 17—Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism.

CALENDAR

Monday, December 14
 Basement Studio Group: Study of modern one act plays with dramatic readings and prepared discussion. Music hour by Mrs. Edward L. Singren. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Wednesday, December 16
 *Sock and Buskin present "The Frogs" by Aristophanes. Faunce House Theater, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Thursday, December 17
 Chopin Club Memorial Concert. Beneficent Congregational Church, 10:45 A. M.

*Sock and Buskin present "The Frogs" by Aristophanes. Faunce House Theater, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Friday, December 18
 *Sock and Buskin present "The Frogs" by Aristophanes. Faunce House Theater, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Sunday, December 20
 Gallery Talk "Relics of the Ancient Peruvians" by Miss Miriam A. Banks, Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design, 3:30 P. M.

Monday, December 21
 Basement Studio Group: Christmas sketch "The Fireplace Speaks" written and arranged by Miss Mary Cullen, with music. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Monday, December 28
 Basement Studio Group: "The Old Nurse's Story" by Mrs. Gaskell, read by Miss Alice M. Howe. Music hour arranged by Mrs. William F. Harley. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Sunday, January 10
 Concert by Providence Oratorio Society, William W. DeRoin, director. Christmas music from Christmas Oratorio by Bach. Mathewson M. E. Church, 7:30 P. M.

Tuesday, January 12
 *Concert by Providence Symphony Orchestra, Dr. Wassili Leps, conductor. Metropolitan Theater, 8:30 P. M.

Monday, January 18
 *Sock and Buskin present "Ghosts" by Ibsen. Faunce House Theater, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Tuesday, January 19
 *Sock and Buskin present "Ghosts" by Ibsen. Faunce House Theater, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Wednesday, January 20
 *Sock and Buskin present "Ghosts" by Ibsen. Faunce House Theater, Brown University, 8:30 P. M.

Thursday, January 21
 Memory Day for Edgar John Lownes. Organ recital by Fernando Germani of Rome. Sayles Hall, Brown University, 4:30 P. M.

Monday, January 25
 Basement Studio Group: Study of modern one act plays with dramatic readings and prepared discussion. Music hour. Tea. 80 Benefit Street, 8:10 P. M.

Tuesday, January 26
 *Concert by Boston Symphony Orchestra, Serge Koussevitsky, conductor. Metropolitan Theater, 8:15 P. M.

*Admission charged.

EXHIBITIONS IN RHODE ISLAND

School Gallery of the Rhode Island School of Design

Dec. 15-31—Handicraft from the Universal School of Handicraft in New York.

Museum of the Rhode Island School of Design

Dec. 10-27—Masks of North and South American Indians, African Negro Tribes, and South Sea Islanders.

Dec. 16-31—American Portraiture, 1750-1850.

Dec. 23-Jan. 20—Peruvian Antiquities.

Dec. 6-Jan. 31—East Indian Jewelry and Indo-Persian Miniatures.

Jan. 25-Feb. 15—Twelve American Painters.

Providence Art Club

Dec. 8-31—Little Picture Exhibition.

Jan. 5-17—Loan Collection of Portraits of Women.

Jan. 19-31—Work by Eugene Kingman.

Art Association of Newport

Dec. 15-29—Living American Art.

Jan. 4-23—Etchings and Dry-points by John H. Clifford.

Jan. 15-27—Textiles Created by Style and Design Bureau of Marshall Field and Company.

Armour Gallery

Dec. 1-31—Etchings by Whistler, Pennell and Benson; Lithographs of Cats by Agnes Tait; Illuminations by Wilhelm R. Gilooly.

Kay Kellogg's Studio

Dec. 15-Jan. 31—Flower Holders, Chinese Linens, Rings, and Silver Enamel.

Tilden-Thurber Gallery

Dec. 15-Jan. 9—Paintings, Etchings and Color Reproductions.
 Jan. 11-30—Character Sketches by Nancy Dyer.

Mauk-Murray Studio

Dec. 1-26—Work of Joseph Pennell and Edmund Blampied.

Nathaniel M. Vose Gallery

Dec. 1-31—Etchings by John H. Clifford; gifts in wood.