

Remington Sheldon Business Building
379-381 South Main Street
Providence
Providence County
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-219

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
119-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

REMINGTON SHELDON BUSINESS BUILDING

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Address: 379-381 South Main Street, southwest corner South Main and Guilder Streets, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island.
Plat 16, Lot 39.

Present Owner: Maurania Corporation

Present Occupant: Netop Company

Present Use: Offices and shop for a firm doing building construction and restoration.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is an example of one of the early business buildings built on South Main Street following the fire of 1801. It was an early business place of the prominent firm of Carlos and Joshua Mauran.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners:

1770 Joseph Sheldon built a Dwelling House here in 1728 and transferred it to his son Christopher. There was also a shop, warehouse and a wharf 144' long. - Notes at the Rhode Island Historical Society gathered by Henry R. Chace in preparation of his book, Owners and Occupants of the Lots, Houses and Shops in the Town of Providence, Rhode Island in 1798, Located on Maps of the Highways of that Date (Providence, 1914).

1803 In the division of the Estate of Christopher Sheldon Lot #2 is devised to Remington Sheldon. Deed Book 27, page 573, in Providence City Hall.

1809 Remington Sheldon, yeoman, sells for \$1400 to Joshua Mauran et al a certain lot of land with store thereon on a private gangway 14' wide Bounded E/ly by South Main Street 32'; S/ly by a 12' gangway; W/ly by the Channel...being Lot #2 that was set off to Remington Sheldon in the division of the Estate of Christopher Sheldon. Deed Book 34, page 55, in Providence City Hall.

- 1828 For \$3,500 Joshua Mauran sells to Carlos Mauran now doing business under the firm of Carlos and Joshua Mauran 1/2 of a certain lot of land with buildings, South Water Street passing thru lot it being #2 in the division of the Estate of C Sheldon and was bought of Remington Sheldon in 1809. - Deed Book 55, page 52, in Providence City Hall.
- 1854 Property taxed to Carlos Mauran heirs.
- 1856 Sally Mauran et al sells for \$10,000 this property to James Mumford, G B Earle, William M Bailey, Albert S Gallup with buildings..Bounded E by South Main Street 32'; S/ly by gangway leading from South Main to South Water Street. - Deed Book 145, page 57, in Providence City Hall.
- 1856 Property is taxed to the Ferry Coal Company.. (Joseph Olney et al)
- 1923 C P Olney et al sell the property to Jacob Tannenbaum...being the same property conveyed by Sally Mauran et al to James Mumford et al in 1856. - Deed Book 641, page 421, in Providence City Hall.

This property changed ownership several times and was taxed to the following persons in the year designated:

- | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1926 | Schneidel Tannenbaum | 1940 | Union Trust Company |
| 1939 | Putnam Savings Bank | 1940 | Putnam Savings Bank |
| | 1944 | | Rhode Island Covering Company |
- 1961 Dana M Swan and Bernard R Pollock, Co-receivers of the Rhode Island Covering Company, sell for \$75,000 to Maurania Corporation, TWO certain parcels of land;

SECOND PARCEL: That certain lot or parcel of land at the S/Wly corner of Guildler and South Main Streets. Beginning at the N/Ely corner of said parcel at the S/Wly corner of Guildler and South Main Streets thence S/ly bounding E/ly on South Main Street 37.46' to land of Ira and Rose Rifken, thence W/ly bounding S/ly on Rifken land 24.02' for a corner, thence S/ly bounding E on said Rifken land 2.61' for a corner thence W/ly bounding S/ly in part on said land and part on land of Sadie Silverstein 19.93' for a corner, thence N/ly bounding W/ly on last named land 3.22' more

or less for a corner thence W/ly bounding S/ly on last named land 15.67' more or less to land now or lately of Bertrand L Hornby thence N/ly bounding W/ly on said Hornby land 37.78' to Guilder Street, thence E/ly bounding N/ly on Guilder Street 59.54' more or less to South Main Street or place of beginning...being same conveyed to Rhode Island Covering Company Inc by Isidore Sheckman in 1953 (Deed Book 1013, page 310). - Deed Book 1110, page 684, in Providence City Hall.

2. Date of erection: Between 1803 and 1809.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey
for the Providence Preservation Society
April 1962.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is an example of one of the early business buildings built on South Main Street following the fire of 1801. It is a small brick building with business offices on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: About 27' wide x 45' deep, facing east. Two-and-one-half stories high on sloping lot with cellar at ground level in rear.
2. Foundations and wall construction: Brick, common bond; slightly projecting belt courses, four courses high, between stories. Brick are 1-3/4" x 3-1/2" x 7-1/2".
3. Chimneys: Four brick chimneys, one at the center of each wall.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Most of first floor front taken up by later glazed shop front with iron posts. Door to stair hall to second floor apartment at one side of front, brick opening with semicircular head, surrounded by a very simple, very

flat, stone frame. Six-panel door probably later with flat sunk panels, Greek Revival moldings.

- b. Windows and shutters: Wood, double hung, two over two light, with stone sills and splayed lintels. Shutter hardware but no shutters.

5. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Hip roof, asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornice: Stepped brick cornice with brick dentils.
- c. Dormers: Gabled dormers with double hung windows, two on front, one on each side.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Unfinished basement with rear door at ground level. Main floor business area now divided into front and back rooms, hallway with front and back stairs to second floor apartment on south side. Four large rooms and three small rooms on second floor. Three very small rooms on third floor.
2. Stairways: Main stair in entrance hall to second floor, U-shape with landing and short leg at top, open well, open string, three slender rectangular balusters per step, molded rail, scroll step end ornaments, band of reeding along outside string, slender turned newels. Enclosed back stair continues to attic.
3. Flooring: Wide board floors.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: Six-panel doors, raised panels, simple moldings. Molded architraves.
6. Trim: Molded window frames, some windows have band of reeding under the sills. Large molded cornice in stair hall with band of reeding. Molded cornice in one room.
7. Hardware: Butt hinges. Miscellaneous later knobs.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Four chimneys with fireplaces. Mostly simple wood mantels. One mantel on second floor with reeded fascia on mantel shelf. Later marble mantel in front room on second floor.

D. Site

General setting: The building is at the southwest corner, of South Main and Guilder Streets, building on the sidewalk line at east, front, and north sides, lot slopes down to the rear, small yards on south and west sides.

Prepared by Osmond R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
April 1962