Baldwin (Charles H.) House

Bellevue Avenue, opposite Perry Street

Newport

Rhode Island, 02810

Agricultural
Government
Industrial
Military
Museum
Private Residence
Religious
Scientific

Transportation
Comments

Historic American Buildings Survey

1970

Library of Congress

Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S.E.

Washington, District of Columbia
This is a large, irregularly rectangular house, about eighty by sixty feet, two-and-one-half storeys high under steep, many-gabled roofs. Timber-framed, the house is faced with brick, clapboards and shingles, in that order from the ground floor upwards. These materials are well combined, without argumentative contrasts in colour or texture. Vertical accents are created in this example of the American "Queen Anne" or "shingle" style by the towering, pilastered chimneys, while strong interlocking patterns are created by the roof slopes and gable forms, the half-timbered and panelled wall surfaces and the window mullionsing. Equally strong horizontal shadow patterns are created by the long and deep porch, with turned columns on brick pedestals, which stretches across the front of the house and at the entrance breaks forward into a porte-cochère. The New York/New Jersey architects Potter and Robinson indeed achieved by the above means the lively (but here self-contained) form and the picturesque silhouette coming into vogue when this house was built in 1877-1878.

The principal interior spaces are large, and the planning very open. The entrance vestibule leads into a large and dramatically conceived central hall ("living-hall") which originally rose the full height of the building's interior, open to galleries on the second and third levels, but which is now closed off between the second and third floors. This central hall opens to a broad stair-hall, a dining-room across the back of the house, and to drawing-room and library at either side. Service rooms are placed to one side of the house, running out beside and beyond the dining-room; bedrooms consume the second and third floors. The principal rooms of the lower floors are richly decorated, particularly with wood detail which is characterised by the free combination of Colonial Revival and Queen Anne motifs.

Originally a single-family dwelling, the house is now divided into three separate apartments, but this has been done with a minimum of alteration to either structure or trim. The original dark, stained woodwork is now painted over in light colours in many areas, and only a few traces of the original flocked wallpapers of red, vertically-striped pattern survive. With the few exceptions mentioned, the house remains a large, generally intact and valuable example of its period.
The house was constructed from the designs of Potter and Robinson—a firm which "came early to the Queen Anne style and grew with it"—as a summer residence, only, for Commodore Charles H. Baldwin, U. S. N., of New York. It was built as a part of the development of Bellevue Avenue and the adjoining areas as a summer colony.

The house is particularly interesting as an example of the Shingle, or American Queen Anne, Style and has been documented as such. It is characterised by richly textured, decorative surfaces, revival detail freely used, open planning with dramatic interior spaces. Besides its importance as a specific example of an architectural period, it is significant and vital as a link in the Bellevue Avenue urban setting, reflecting the development of that area of Newport on a grand and prosperous scale.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>41° 29' 09&quot; N</td>
<td>71° 18' 17&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>41° 29' 12&quot; N</td>
<td>71° 18' 14&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>41° 29' 07&quot; N</td>
<td>71° 18' 13&quot; W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>41° 28' 59&quot; N</td>
<td>71° 18' 16&quot; W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Osmund R. Overtby, Project Supervisor

ORGANIZATION: Historic American Buildings Survey--Newport Project

STREET AND NUMBER: 90 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

Signature

DATE: September, 1970

CHIEF, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

DATE: __________________________

ATTEST:

______________________________

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE: __________________________
**1. NAME**

**COMMON:** Baldwin (Charles H.) House  
**AND/OR HISTORIC:**

**2. LOCATION**

**STREET AND NUMBER:** Bellevue Avenue, opposite Perry Street  
**CITY OR TOWN:** Newport  
**STATE:** Rhode Island  
**CODE:** 44  
**COUNTY:** Newport  
**CODE:** 005

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT:** Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey  
**DATE OF PHOTO:** July, 1970  
**NEGATIVE FILED AT:** Library of Congress, Independence Avenue and 1st St., S. E., Washington, D.C.

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:** Detail of mantel in library.
Common: Baldwin (Charles H.) House

Street and Number: Bellevue Avenue, opposite Perry Street

City or Town: Newport

State: Rhode Island

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Scale: 1: 12,000

Date: 1957

Requirements:
1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.
1. NAME

COMMON: Baldwin (Charles H.) House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Bellevue Avenue, opposite Perry Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION: Built-in buffet in dining-room.
1. NAME

COMMON: Baldwin (Charles H.) House
AND OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Bellevue Avenue, opposite Perry Street
CITY OR TOWN: Newport
STATE: Rhode Island
CODE: 44
COUNTY: Newport
CODE: 005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Central hall, showing stairs, galleries, panelling.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>Rhode Island</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
<td>Newport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMON: Baldwin (Charles H.) House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND OR HISTORIC:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STREET AND NUMBER: Bellevue Avenue, opposite Perry Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CITY OR TOWN: Newport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE: Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, Independence Avenue and 1st St., S. E., Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear (east) elevation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME

COMMON: Baldwin (Charles H.) House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Bellevue Avenue, opposite Perry Street

CITY OR TOWN: Newport

STATE: Rhode Island

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Cervin Robinson, for Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF PHOTO: July, 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Library of Congress, Independence Avenue and 1st St., S. E., Washington, D. C.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior, showing entrance front, seen from south-west.