

Present house built 1905/6 for Samuel J. Allen, an auditor for P.R.P., by builder/contractor S.L.Sullivan of Palmyra (who was in business 30 yrs, 14 of them in Palmyra).

House is a large 2½ story weatherboard residence with 2-bay front veranda that wraps to left side; front gable roof, 2 large gabled dormers on each side of house. Large first floor windows double hune 6/1; others 4/1; 2nd floor windows are 6/1. A pair of small diamond-paned casement windows are over stairway on right side of house. Rt. front of house beyond porch has a 2-story, 3-sectioned bay window. Porch roof supported by round columns; turned balusters on porch railings. Stepping stone at curb.

History: In 1851 this lot and that next to it (# 16 and #17) on Plan of Riverton were assigned to founder Chalkley Gillingham, who lived in the area and did not build and move into the new village. Lot #16 was deeded to Charles Hall in January 1852 from Riverton Improvement Co (which officially incorporated March 1852). Hall thought to have put aside the liquor restriction in his deed (think he planned a hotel with bar), but lost his suit, and sold property back to the Riverton Improvement Co, which then built (or, possibly, continued to build) an "overflow" boarding house to supplement the Lawn House on the Riverbank. The new building was called "The White House." Apparently the Company kept an office in this building for a time, and the 1860 Stone & Pomeroy map labels the building as "Riverton Company". John Seckel, proprietor of the Lawn House, was instrumental in founding the Christ Episcopal Church here. The 1st meeting of the church's founders was held at the White House, according to church records, having gotten permission from D.L.Miller, jr., one of the founders and the treasurer of the Company at the time. Later they met at the Lawn House stables, then moved inside when the season was over for boarders, and cold weather made outdoor meetings impractical. They continued to meet there until their church was erected, in 1860.

In 1868 John Seckel purchased the White House, and his daughter Sallie ran it until it burned down in 1904. (Then she rented a house further up Main St. and continued to accommodate boarders, there.).

In 1905 Samuel J. Allen purchased the property, and the following year moved, with his family--wife Henrietta and sisters-in-law Bertha and Helen Robertson--into the new house, which had been built on the old foundation. In the cellar of the present building the line between original foundation of rubble, to a depth of 10 ft., and the new one, of brick, can be seen. The property went through to Penn St., and the foundation of a large carriage house was also visible at that end of the property.

Mr. Allen had, when living in a rented house at 404 Lippincott Ave., entertained vice-president elect Teddy Roosevelt, overnight, as they were family friends. At 102 Main St Miss Bertha Robertson conducted a small private school, for a while.

Samuel J. Allen was related to Samuel Leeds Allen of Cinnaminson (although at this time I have no proof of exact relationship). S.L.Allen was an innovative merchant and farmer, who began to farm in Westfield ca. 1861 on his father's farm, went into business with his father 10 years later, forming the "Planet Tool & Farm Equipment" Co., and had a plant in Philadelphia to manufacture farm equipment he designed. In 1881 he took Edward Richee and his brother-in-law Wm. H. Roberts into his company; in 1889 he patented his "Flexible Flyer" Sled, and in 1915 he was producing 2000 of them daily.

See S.L. Allen

biography -

SY not his

See - poss. 6/14

some relationship as possibly, more

Ref: Co Clerk's office: Map of Riverton

Deeds, Hall to R I Co 1854;

(+ others) Allen from Seckel from R I Co 1868

New Era 1909 Christmas issue, and other newspapers

Census records: 1860-1870-1880-1900-1910

Manning's Burl. Co Directory, 1929

Various maps

Notes on Allen Family

researched/compiled BBHahl

August 19

*Riverton Improvement Co. notes, Hall applied and was denied liquor license Sept 20 1853; he planned to contest it, and when he learned the Co. would take legal action, he dropped his suit, and sold property to Rodman Wharton, one of the founders, for the Co.

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102 Main Street

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son - possibly
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or possibly none

researched/compiled BBHahle
August 1986

102 Date: 1910

Contributing Lot/Block: 307-7

Ownership: George R. and Mary H. Honeyford

Description: 2 1/2 story gable roofed cottage, aluminum siding, 4/1 and 6/1 sash. Four roof dormers facing sides. Wood porch with doric columns covering left side and left two-thirds of front facade. Two story angled bay with hipped roof on right of front facade.

History: Builder was S. L. Sullivan, of Palmyra, for S. J. Allen, a P. R. R. auditor. This is the second building on this lot, originally planned as a founder's property (with #100). The original building burned in 1904. This house was built on the earlier foundations, and lines are clearly visible in the cellar.