

Bishop's House

Built: 1894-95

Historic Features:

Exterior

This two and a half story house designed by Boston architect R.

Clipston Sturgis, sits and on a

slight rise (known to the Hopkins *Photo 3: North facade (Main Entrance)*

family as Hemlock Hill) past an historic railroad right-of-way. Its stone foundation supports

load-bearing, brick structure, with a slate covered, gabled roof. The brick is laid in Flemish

bond. Fenestration consists of one-over-one and two-over-two sash with pecked limestone lintels and wooden sills. Massing is H-shaped.

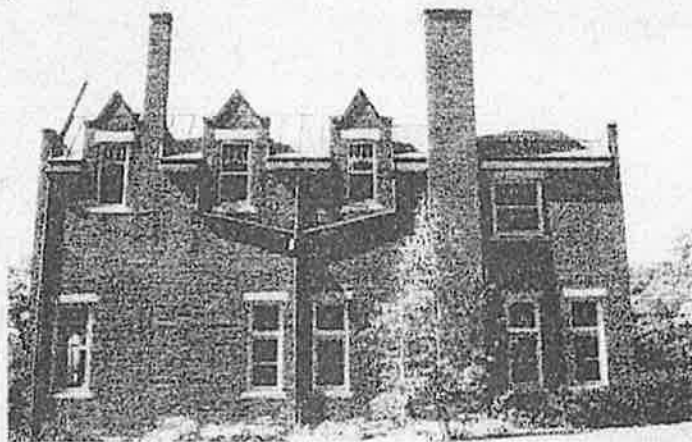


Photo 4: East facade

Bishop Hall was, before his election, a brother in the Society of St. John the Evangelist (the Cowley Fathers) an Anglican monastic order. He remained celibate and designed the Bishop's house to function as a small monastery, where he trained candidates for holy orders. This is reflected in the monastic "cell" layout of some upstairs room, as well as their size.

The approach from the driveway reveals the eastern facade of the building. Two chimneys and three parapeted end gables rise from the eaves. The principle entrance is on the north facade. Ells with parapeted gables lit by oculi project from the central block. A two story, projecting central pavilion, also with a parapeted gable, houses the main entrance. A multi-paneled Colonial Revival door is framed by Tuscan columns supporting consoles and a small hood. Directly above this stretches a stone slab carved with a coat of arms.



Photo 5: West facade



Photo 6: South facade

On the western facade's northern corner, a side entrance, sheltered by a small, enclosed wooden porch, leads into the kitchen. Further south on this facade, one interior chimney rises from the eaves. A circular bay window comprised of five double hung windows lights the dining room on the first floor.

Like the northern elevation, the southern elevation, or garden front, features a central, longitudinal section flanked by gabled ells. In addition, a one-story sunroom was added between the ells, filling in this space to bring the center exterior wall flush with the ells. A central entrance opens onto a

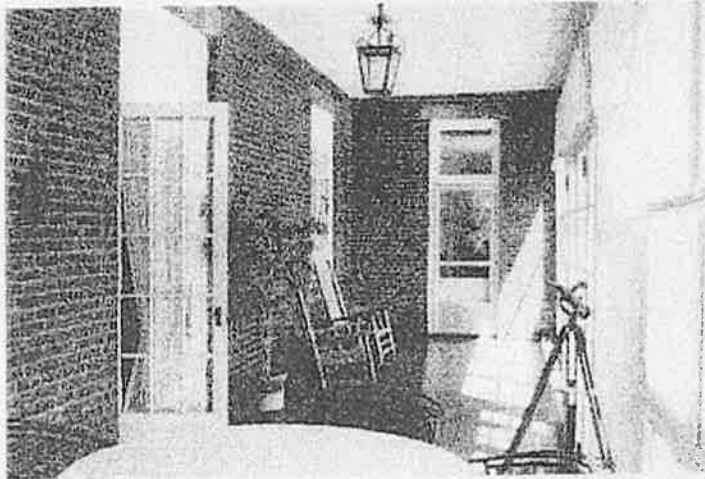


Photo 7: Sunroom interior

patio. A balustrade crowns the eaves of this addition. Two more chimneys rise from this side. An oculus lights the west gable, while a rectangular window with Gothic style tracery lights the east. Historic photographs show that the parapeted gables once featured light colored contrasting pinnacles at their peaks. Beyond this alteration, the exterior of the house retains all architectural features of its original construction.

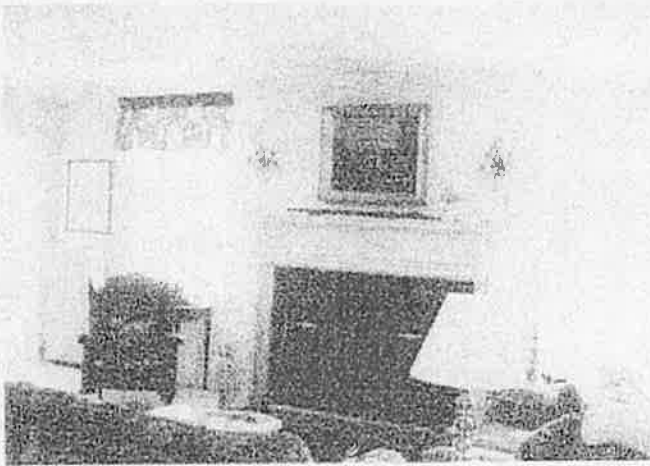


Photo 8: Living Room

Interior

The principal entrance opens into a central living room from which all parts of the house are reached. To the east are the official public spaces of the Bishop: a library and a study. To the west, rooms are devoted to entertainment and service: a second small study or sitting room, dining room and kitchen. Upstairs are bedrooms as well as a splendid paneled oratory.

A prominent, two-run stairway hugs the front wall, leading from the living room to the upstairs hallway. Although this is now painted white (along with the rest of the woodwork), historic photographs show that this was once stained with a dark finish. Wall to wall

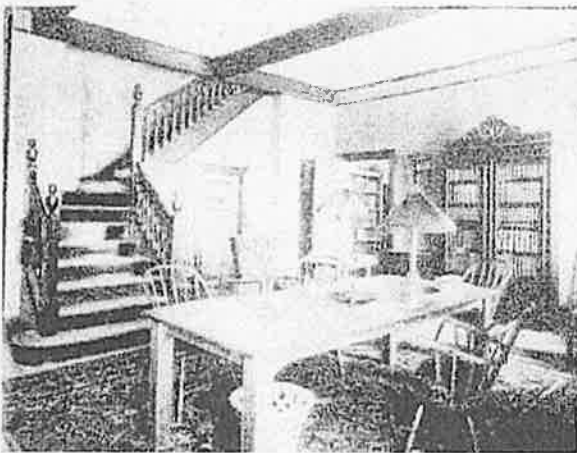


Photo 10: Living Room (historic)

An oak-paneled library occupies most of the eastern ell's first floor. Carved sunbursts, turned finials and plaques commemorating former bishops ornament built in oak bookcases, lined with books. Freestanding Tuscan columns flank a large Tudor Revival fireplace with marble surround. Molded geometric designs decorate the frieze above, along with a carved shield in the center, depicting a crozier and mitre and the inscription, "Veritas vos Liberat". In addition,

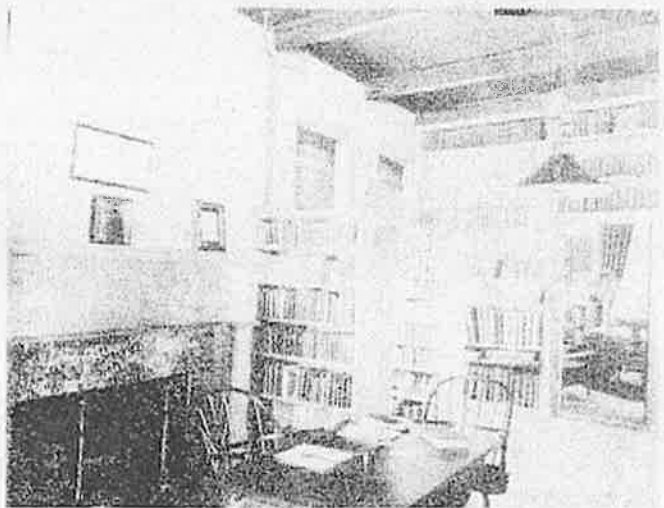


Photo 11: Library (historic)

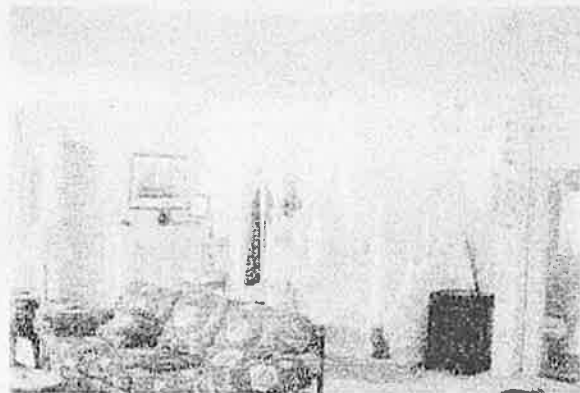


Photo 9: Living Room

carpeting covers the floors. A central fireplace stands on the back wall, opposite the stairway. This features a jack arch over the opening, a free standing Doric surround and a full entablature. Opening onto the sun porch are French doors to the right of the fireplace and a casement window to the left.

a built-in safe (made by Macneale and Urban) remains from when this was used as the diocesan treasury. Deep red carpet covers the floor.

Adjacent to this room and also accessible from the central hall is the bishop's study, in the east corner of the house. This room also has a fireplace and built-in bookcases.

Historic photos show a cabinet located in the chimney, which is now covered with plaster. Hairline cracks and deflections in the plaster indicate the former openings.

The other end of the house is reached from a corridor leading southwesterly from the central hall. A small sitting room with a fireplace is immediately to the left, and the dining room

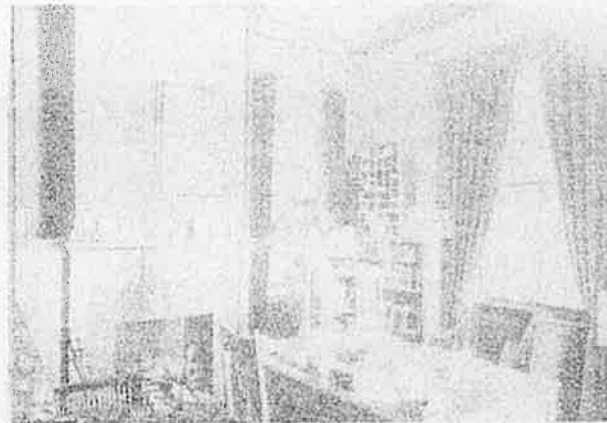


Photo 12: Study (historic)

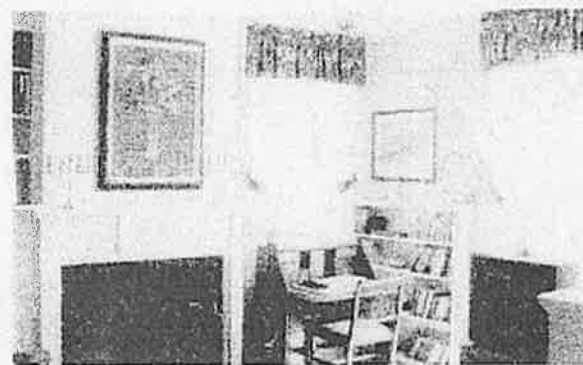


Photo 13: Study

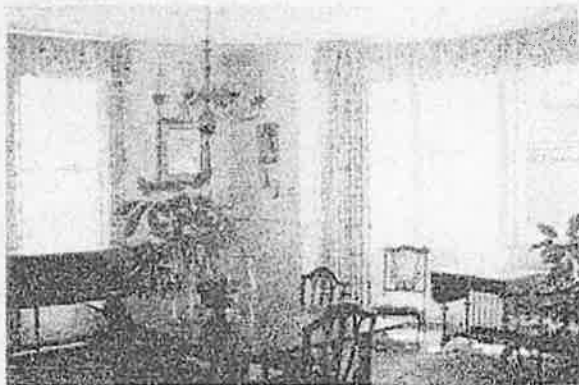


Photo 14: Dining Room

lies further along on the same side at the southern corner of the building. This latter room also has a fireplace, and it is further distinguished by a bay window. At the end of the corridor is a compact back stair. Across the corridor from the dining room and the sitting room is the kitchen, now modernized.

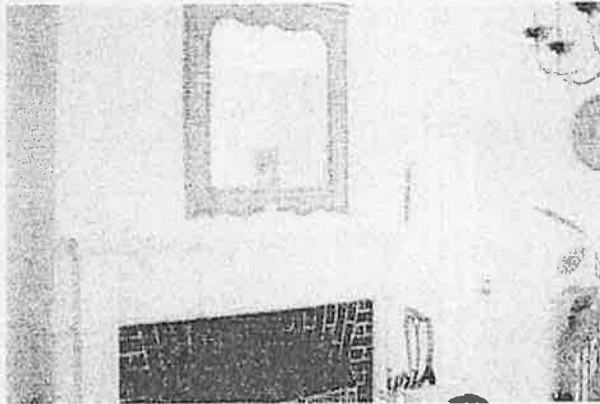


Photo 17: Dining Room

Upstairs, in the east corner, is a fine, paneled

oratory. An oak rood screen with linenfold

paneling (below) and delicate tracery (above) divides the space. In the frieze is a Latin

inscription. Oak choir stalls also are ornamented with linenfold paneling. A possibly newer

oaken altar with a marble top is carved with grapes and roses. Above, seven shields depict the

Instruments of the Passion. Three windows are decorated in a fashion reminiscent of the

Norwich, England School of glass painting. These

portray the Crucifixion, the Baptism of Christ, and

Christ Appearing to the Disciples. The furnishings of

this chapel were given by English friends of Bishop

Hall.

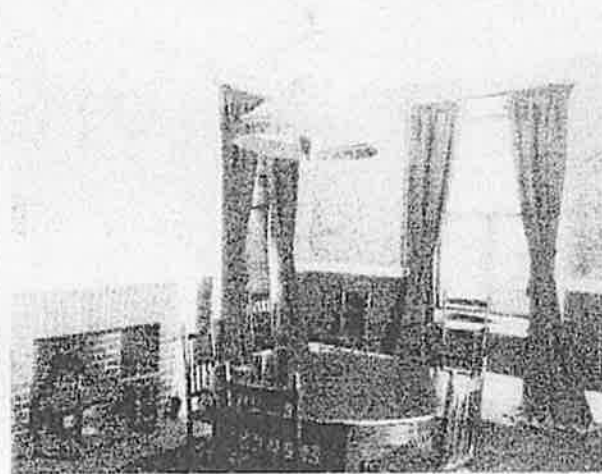


Photo 15: Dining Room (historic)

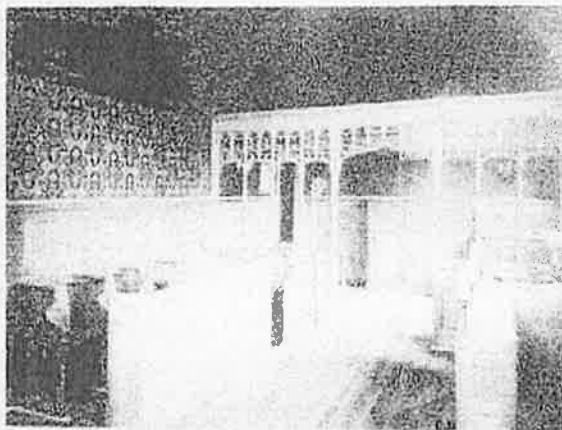


Photo 18: Oratory (historic)



Photo 16: Oratory

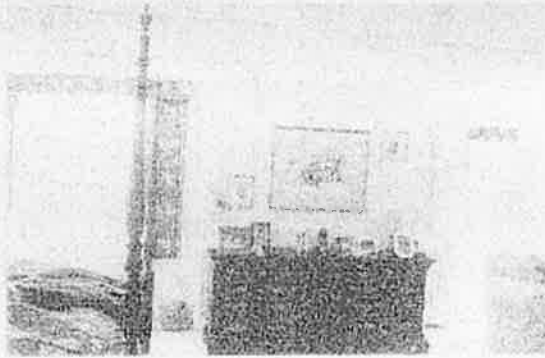


Photo 22: Large Bedroom

study that formally had a vaulted ceiling, similar in height to the oratory ceiling. This ceiling is still in place above the "drop" ceiling, and is accessible from the attic. Along the west wall of the west ell, small rooms represent the original layout of the second floor. In the room second from the north, there is a chimney with a covered stovepipe exhaust, with ornamental coping running vertically along the edge.



Photo 20: Plaster Detail

Across the driveway from the Bishop's House is a small, wood-frame garage.

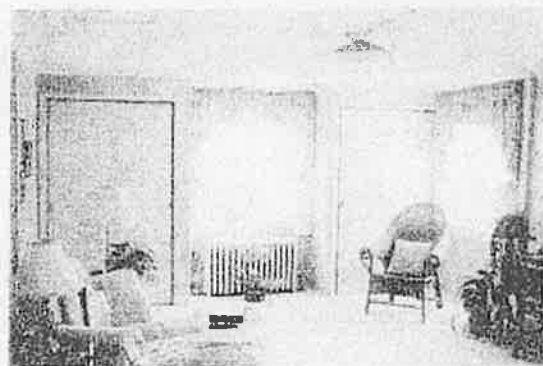


Photo 21: Upstairs Study

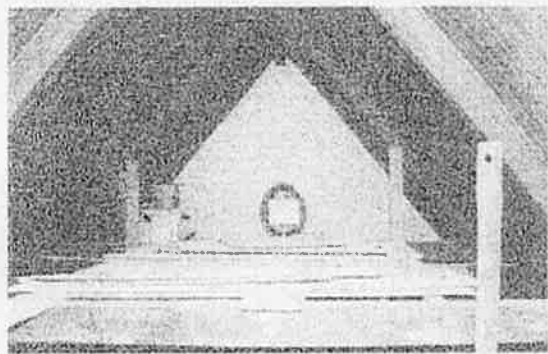


Photo 19: Original Ceiling

[Building description has been adopted from the draft National Register Nomination, prepared in 1995 by George Born, a graduate student in the UVM Historic Preservation Program.]