= Roger Mowry Tavern =

The Roger Mowry Tavern , also known variously as the Roger Mowry House , Olney House and Abbott House , was a historic stone ender house , built around 1653 , in Providence , Rhode Island . Roger Mowry was a constable and operated the only tavern in the town . The tavern also served as a government meeting place , church , and jail . It was originally constructed as a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half story single room house with a chamber upstairs . By 1711 the house was expanded with a two @-@ story lean @-@ to by 1711 . At unknown later date , the top of the roof of the original house was raised up further . The original portion of the house was restored by Norman Isham by 1895 . The Roger Mowry Tavern was the oldest house in Providence until it was demolished in 1900 .

= = Roger Mowry = =

The first American records of Roger Mowry appear in Boston , Massachusetts . On May 18 , 1631 , a document stated Mowry 's desire to be a freeman . Mowry would move to Plymouth , Massachusetts and later Salem , Massachusetts before arriving in Providence , Rhode Island . Mowry lived in Salem between 1636 and 1649 , with his wife Mary , the eldest daughter of John Johnson of Roxbury . In 1637 , Mowry acquired 50 acres (0 @.@ 20 km2) of land some two miles from the Salem settlement and built his house on the lot which was to be the corner of Essex and Flint Street . About 1653 , Mowry constructed a house which would come to be known as the Roger Mowry Tavern . In 1655 , Mowry became a freeman in Providence and resided there until his death on January 5 , 1666 . Records show that Roger Mowry was the tavernkeeper and constable . A family monument lists Mowry as having twelve children , with one child , Benjamin , reportedly having been found and baptized by Mowry .

= = Design = =

The original architect of the Roger Mowry Tavern is not known for certain . Robert A. Geake 's book Historic Taverns of Rhode Island suggests it may have been the work of William Carpenter and the mason John Smith . The original house began as a one @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half story stone ender with a single 16 feet (4 @.@ 9 m) by roughly 17 feet (5 @.@ 2 m) fire room . Running lengthwise across the middle of the room is a large summer beam . On the right side of the fireplace was the stairs or ladder that lead to the upstairs chamber . At an unknown date , the roof of the original house was extended higher , as evidenced by the original beams ending about 3 feet (0 @.@ 91 m) above the floor . By 1711 , the house had a two @-@ story lean @-@ to . By the late 19th century the house had been greatly altered , but the original structure was restored by Robert Isham . Isham found and restored the house , which still featured the original posts and beams . The large fireplace remained intact , but was concealed behind a fireboard and closet , that was itself behind a stove . The result was that stone fireplace was completely concealed prior to restoration . Less than a decade later after Isham restored the original part of the house , the whole structure was demolished .

= = History = =

Roger Mowry was licensed to operate a " house of entertainment " in May 1655 . The tavern may have been a contributing reason for the passage of a law that mandated no alcoholic drinks be served after 9 p.m. under penalty of a fine , unless a satisfactory reason was given to the constable or magistrate .
Roger Mowry 's Tavern was reportedly the site of civil rally to free a man taken prisoner by a Massachusetts constable . The constable , whose intention was to extradite his prisoner back to Massachusetts for prosecution was staying at the nearby Roger Pray 's tavern when concerned citizens gathered at Mowry 's tavern . The citizens summoned the town council , and a messenger

was sent to the Massachusetts constable to demand by what authority he held his prisoner . The end result was the release of the prisoner . Another story surrounding the tavern was the murder of John Clawson , a Dutch carpenter , who was found dying one December morning in 1661 . A native Indian , Waumanitt , was charged with the crime and held at Mowry 's tavern until the matter could be resolved , but it is unknown what fate befell Waumanitt . According to locals , Clawson was roused and accused his neighbor , Hearndon , for his murder . Clawson then cursed the family before dying . The house was also reported to have been used by the Town Council for meetings , with a record of payment in 1657 from the Town Treasurer .

Upon Mowry 's death , his wife retained the house until selling it to Stephen Paine on September 5 , 1671 . Paine conveyed it to Samuel Whipple who resided in the house until his death in 1711 . Upon his death the house was recorded as having a two @-@ story lean @-@ to . Whipple transferred the property to his wife and upon her death , which passed to their daughters Abigail and Hope Whipple . Hope Whipple would marry Robert Currie and upon her death , Robert Currie would marry her sister Abigail Whipple , and upon her death fell to Robert Currie 's ownership . In 1737 , Currie sold the house to William Smith , Job Whipple and John Whipple . It remained in the Whipple family until 1761 when it was sold to Captain Joseph Owen . The house would take its final name , the Abbott House , from Thomas Abbott who married Joseph Owen 's daughter and resided in the house until his death in 1826 . The Mowry Tavern was allegedly one of only five buildings not burned by the Indians during King Philip 's War . It is believed that it was spared because Roger Williams , a friend of the Indians , held Christian worship services in the building . The house was located on Abbott Street adjacent to the North Burial Ground . The entire structure was demolished in 1900 to construct a triple decker tenement house . At the time of its demolition , it was the oldest house in Providence .

= = Gallery = =