

Built by Joseph Durfee, Jr.

in 1848

See Map

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

RECORDS OF

#23 HALSEY STREET.....WOOD

PLAT 9  
LOT 183

~~Lot #7~~  
for 17 Halsey St

#13 IN 1850--#17 IN 1870--#23 IN 1895

1640

LOT #183....PLAT #9 WAS LOCATED PARTLY ON THE HOME LOT OF JOHN GREENE, JR. AND PARTLY ON THE HOME LOT OF BENEDICT ARNOLD.... HOPKINS MAP OF EARLY SETTLERS OF PROVIDENCE, R.I.

1768

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE...I, JOHN WHIPPLE FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION OF THE LOVE AND GOOD WILL WHICH I HAVE AND BEAR TOWARDS MY DUTIFUL SON JOSEPH WHIPPLE OF PROVIDENCE, FOR HIS FURTHER ADVANCEMENT IN THIS LIFE, ALSO OF THE MOST AFFECTIONATE AND COMPLETE RECONCILIATION AND FINAL END OF ALL DIFFERENCES HERETOFOR UNHAPPILY SUBSISTING BETWEEN US AND OTHER SPECIAL CAUSES AND UNTO ME MOVEING PARTICULARLY....DO HEREBY FULLY, FREELY AND ABSOLUTELY GRANT AND CONVEY TO MY SAID SON JOSEPH WHIPPLE ALL MY LANDS WITH ALL SEVERAL BUILDINGS OF EVERY KIND AND IMPROVEMENT ON THEM RESPECTIVELY ERECTED AND BEING. THAT IS TO SAY MY FARM....ALL MY HOMESTED AND OTHER LANDS LYING IN THE TOWNSHIP OF PROVIDENCE AND IN GENERAL ALL MY OTHER UNIMPROVED LANDS AND RIGHTS OF LAND BOTH DIVIDED AND UNDIVIDED IN THE ORIGINAL GRAND PURCHASE OF PROVIDENCE IN SAID COUNTY OF PROVIDENCE IN WHICH THE SAME WITH ALL THE OTHER LANDS BEFORE MENTIONED DO LYE....DEED BOOK 19.36

1788

JOSEPH WHIPPLE FOR IN CONSIDERATION OF THE NATURAL LOVE AND AFFECTION WHICH HE BEARS HIS SON SAMUEL, CONVEYS TO HIM A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND BOUNDED: W BY BENEFIT STREET 192'; S BY GRANTOR: E BY FERRY LANE 237'; N BY JONATHAN ARNOLD AND FORMERLY EXEKIEL BURR THENCE RUNNING S AND BOUND BY THE SCHOOL HOUSE LOT 45'....THEN RUNNING W BOUNDE S BY SCHOOL HOUSE LOT 85' TO BENEFIT STREET....DB 22.130

1788

JOSEPH WHIPPLE CONVEYS TO HIS <sup>son</sup> SAMUEL A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND BOUNDED: S BY JOSEPH JENCKES; W BY BENEFIT STREET; E BY FERRY ROAD; N BY GRANTOR OTHER LAND..."BEING ALL THE LAND I OWN ON THE E SIDE OF BENEFIT STREET TOGETHER WITH THE BARN THEREON STANDING...DB 21.609

1789

SAMUEL WHIPPLE SELLS FOR 1000<sup>c</sup> LAWFUL SILVER MONEY TO THOMAS L. HALSEY, MERCHANT, A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND TOGETHER WITH A BARN..."BEING THE WHOLE I RECEIVED OF MY HONORED FATHER JOSEPH WHIPPLE BY 2 DEEDS" (DB 22.130 AND DB 21.609)...DB 21.614

1840

"MAP OF HALSEY STREET AND ADJACENT LANDS OWNED BY THE LATE THOMAS L. HALSEY BY M.B.LOCKWOOD 1840"....HALSEY STREET NOW PLATTED. See map

1847

FRANCIS M. CROSS (DAUGHTER OF T.L.HALSEY) PARTY OF THE 4TH PART, SELLS FOR \$900 TO JOSEPH DURFEE, JR., A CERTAIN LOT OF LAND SITUATED ON THE S/LY SIDE OF HALSEY STREET, AND IS LOT #7 AS DELINEATED AND DESCRIBED ON THE ABOVE MAP...(SEE MAP ATTACHED). SAID LOT MEASURES 50' ON HALSEY STREET... E BY LOTS #8 AND #10; S BY LOT #11; W BY LOT #6. NO BUILDING IS TO BE PLACED WITHIN 8' OF SAID HALSEY STREET...DB 107.253

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

#23 HALSEY STREET (CONTINUED)

1848

POLICY RECORD: JOSEPH DURFEE, JR....S SIDE HALSEY ST...WOOD...  
26' x 32'. ADDITION 25' x 22'..ALL 2 STORIES HIGH FRONT AND REAR.  
BASEMENT STORY BRICK ON THE W SIDE...OCCUPIED FOR A DWELLING HOUSE..  
PR 39.16621

1850

JOSEPH DURFEE, GROCER, LIVED HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME...THE DURFEE  
FAMILY LIVED HERE UNTIL.....PROVIDENCE DIRECTORY (RUBY IN 1913).

1913

DURFEE HEIRS SELL THE ABOVE PROPERTY (LOT #7) TO JOHN O'CONNOR...  
DB 538.62/63

THIS PROPERTY CHANGED OWNERSHIP SEVERAL TIMES AND  
WAS OWNED BY BEATRICE O. CHASE IN

1960

1965 SOLD TO W. SLATER ALLEN, JR. AND WIFE, HELEN F.

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

#23 HALSEY STREET

Thomas Lloyd Halsey Estate (partial)

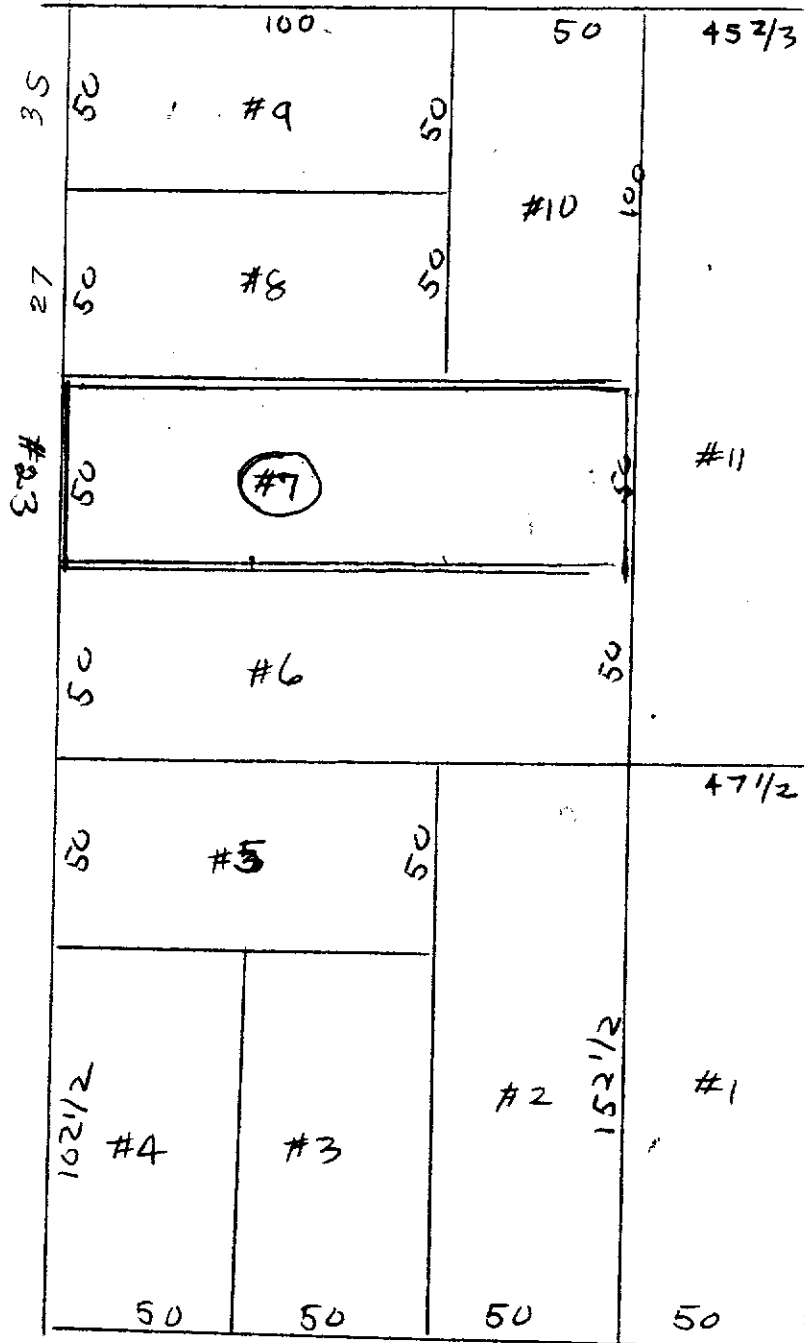
1840  
Platted by M B Lockwood

"Map of Halsey Street and adjacent lands"

Plat Card #50

PRAIT ST

HALSEY STREET



1321 DURFEE, PHILIP HENRY<sup>7</sup> (JOSEPH<sup>6</sup>, JOSEPH<sup>5</sup>, JOSEPH<sup>4</sup>, SAMUEL<sup>3</sup>, WILLIAM<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>.  
SON OF JOSEPH AND JOANNA (NICHOLS) DURFEE, OF TIVERTON AND PROVIDENCE,  
RHODE ISLAND, BORN AT ASSONET, MASS., OCTOBER 26, 1832, DIED IN PROVIDENCE,  
JANUARY 23, 1888; HE WAS A SALESMAN, MARRIED IN BOSTON, MASS., JANUARY 17,  
1861 TO JANE EDDY HATHAWAY, BORN IN BERKLEY, MASS., MARCH 28, 1834, DIED  
IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, AUGUST 9, 1905.

THEIR CHILDREN WERE: (BORN IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND).

2002 1ST - ANNA NICHOLS - B. JUNE 7, 1865.

2003 2ND - WALTER JOSEPH, B. MAY 20, 1868 - DIED 4/6/1869

2004 3RD - HOWARD GORHAM, B. OCTOBER 2, 1870

\* 2005 4TH - ARTHUR JOSEPH<sup>8</sup>, B. JULY 14, 1872

\* 2005 DURFEE, ARTHUR JOSEPH<sup>8</sup>, B. PROVIDENCE 1872, MARRIED IN ASSONET  
AUGUST 8, 1900 TO RUBY COLBY HATHAWAY OF ASSONET. DAUGHTER OF  
ELNATHAR PIERCE AND CLARA L. (COLBY) HATHAWAY. B. ASSONET  
MARCH 3, 1877. THEY RESIDED 1904 IN PROVIDENCE, R.I.

THEIR CHILDREN WERE:-

**NUMBER TWENTY-THREE HALSEY STREET**  
**JOSEPH DURFEE, JR. HOUSE (1848)**  
**OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. William Slater Allen, Jr.**  
**OCCUPIED BY: Owners**  
**FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS BY:**

In 1640, the land 23 Halsey Street stands on belonged partly to John Greene, Jr.'s original home-lot and partly to the home-lot of Benedict Arnold. By 1677, the property was owned by John Whipple, Sr., and it remained in the Whipple family until 1769 when, together with other land along Halsey Street, it was acquired by Thomas Lloyd Halsey. In 1847 Halsey's daughter, Frances M. Cross, sold this lot, #7, to Joseph Durfee, Jr. with the stipulation that no building be placed within eight feet of Halsey Street. He insured the house in 1848, and it remained in the Durfee family until 1913. Burnside Corporation acquired it in 1960, and it has been restored by Mr. and Mrs. Allen, who purchased it in 1965,

Set end to the street, with the gable treated as a pediment, and entry at the side front, the two-story wooden house is a characteristic Greek Revival pattern type, but some transitional later details are apparent, especially on the interior. It is laid out on the side hall three-room plan, with dining room back of the stair hall and double parlors separated by sliding doors. Although the detail is still Greek Revival in scale, the rotund profiles of the moldings forming the door and window trim belong to the Victorian Italianate vocabulary of the day, while the sturdy curving staircase, with its heavy turned newel and turned balusters, is typical of stairs still being built in the fifties and sixties. The Victorian curving outline is repeated in the round-headed doorway which leads into the dining room. The black marble fireplaces, although built on Greek Revival lines, also reflect later influence in the curved lines of the frieze section. These fireplaces

were originally very shallow, and were designed for grates or Franklin stoves. In the recent restoration, they have been deepened for open fires. The ceiling medallion in the parlor is intact and that of the hall, damaged during restoration, has been repaired by <sup>James</sup> Mr. Pilkington.

The silver luster door knobs throughout the house came from a now demolishing residence of about the same date, and the shutter hardware in the back parlor came from the now gutted Slater house at 66 Benefit Street. In time, shutters from this house will also be installed.

The Empire furniture in the living rooms came from the demolished Robert Cassell house in Newport. The walls are hung with contemporary works of art, including a drawing by Varujan Boghosian, a collage by Grace Hartigan and others. The painting in the dining room is by <sup>Sarah Ingalls</sup> Daughn.

The sunny modern kitchen in the ell faces the common court. This room also has its original fireplace, with its Greek Revival wooden mantel piece. The downstairs room was the old kitchen. It has retained its original mantel breast paneling and bake-oven. On display in this room is the office patent model of ~~the~~ a Corless steam-engine.

As in other houses on the square, a private yard leads into the common court.