

Built by - David A. Cleaveland
1846

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Records of

Plat 9
Lot 182

#27 HALSEY STREET ..wood

- 1841 Thomas L Halsey et al quit claim to Nathan M Briggs a certain lot of land on the T L Halsey Plat, platted in 1840. (Book of Plats #2 page 5)lllsee map. The said piece of land is 100' square at the junction of Halsey and Pratt streets being Lots #8 and #9 on the above mentioned plat...it being understood that no building is to be erected within 8' of said Halsey Street..DB 77.401
- 1845 Nathan A Briggs sells for \$500 to David A Cleaveland the above piece of land together with the privilege to take water by pipe from the well on Lot #9 and to build and share cost of repairs of wall between lots #8 and #9...Deed Book 99.28
- 1846 David A Cleaveland quit claims to Charles S and George E Cleaveland all right and title to ~~the above/property~~ ~~DB/102.38~~ the 2/3 part of a lot of land together with all buildings and improvements being Lot #8 on the T L Halsey Plat of 1840...DB 102.38
- 1846 POLICY RECORD: George E Cleaveland et al...wood...24' x 32'. Addition 17' x 18'. All 1½ stories high in front and rear. Occupied for a DWELLING HOUSE...PR 34.13965
- 1864 David A Cleveland sells for \$6500 to John Gorham a certain lot of la land with all buildings and improvements thereon on the S/ly side of Halsey Street bounded: N by Halsey Street and running S 150' it being the whole of lot #8 and the W/ly ½ of Lot #10 on the T L Halsey Plat..said lot was conveyed to me by deed from Nathan Briggs (99.28) and said portion of lot #10 is a portion of lot conveyed to me by Mary Ann (Halsey) Wright in 1849 (115.153) with passage-way privileges...DB 169.447

See abstracts
for next owners.

NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN HALSEY STREET
THE DAVID A. CLEVELAND HOUSE (1846)
OWNERS: Mr. and Mrs. Gary E. Daughn
OCCUPIED BY: Owners
FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS BY:

Like the rest of the Halsey Street houses, the small steep-roofed Gothic cottage at 27 Halsey Street stands on Halsey land. This lot, Number 8, was quit-claimed by the Thomas Lloyd Halsey heirs in 1841, the year the street was laid out, together with lot #9 on the east, to Nathan Briggs with the stipulation that no building was to be put up within eight feet of Halsey Street. In 1845, Briggs sold lot #8 to David A Cleveland, a member of an important merchandising and furniture manufacturing family. The deed of purchase gave Cleveland the right "to take water by pipe" from the well on lot #9, but required him to build and share the cost of a wall to separate the two lots. By 1846, he had built and insured the house, described in the policy as a story-and-a-half wooden building, 24' by 32' with an addition of 17' by 18'. He kept the house until 1864, when it was bought by John Gorham (of the Gorham Silver Company) then living on Jencks Street, who owned the property until 1875. It changed hands frequently after that date until 1961, when it was acquired as part of Benefit Square by Burnside Corporation.

The little house, with its side porch entry reached by a flight of steep steps, its sharply sloping roof lines, Gothic drip cornices, peaked gables, and gabled center bay reflects the contemporary strong interest in picturesque forms, but most of the detail is essentially still Greek Revival. The plan, reflecting the quest for new arrangements, is not a traditional one. It consists chiefly of a side entry wing, opening into double rooms which extend across the entire Halsey Street front of the house.

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The stair hall, set at the center back, leads from the living rooms into the large rear ell mentioned in the 1846 insurance policy and, at the left, into a small room now converted into a modern kitchen. The outstanding architectural feature of the hall is the delightful true spiral staircase. It is built against a curved wall, finished with hand-planed vertical boards that make a foil for the unusual balusters with their short spoollike turned sections. The outer wall of the stairs is also curved and is cut by a window, forming an asymmetrical pointed arch.

The other trim is of a simple Greek Revival type. The original doors have been removed and the present plain doors add to the simplicity of effect. The rear ell has been made into a family room.

Mrs. Daughn has been requested especially to show her paintings. They are hung throughout the house.