

HISTORIC HOUSE RESEARCH

for

220 Morris Avenue

Plat 8

lot 151

The John F. O'Connell House

built 1902

1887 March. This area, entitled the "Highland Plat" was surveyed and platted by George C. Tingley, Civil Engineer. It was recorded at the office of Providence Recorder of Deeds in Plat Book 16 page 60, plat card 580.220. Morris stands on recorded lot #19 and 34' inch width and the entire depth of recorded lot #18.

Until 1897 Morris Avenue was called Olney Street to the junction of Cypress. Morris Avenue extended from Cypress Street to Rochambeau Avenue in its present location. NOTE: East Avenue is now called Hope Street, Olney Street began at North Main, as it does now. Olney extended easterly to what is now the intersection of Olney and Morris. It turned northerly onto what is now entitled Morris Avenue- still being called Olney Street. Olney extended to about where Cypress intersects at Morris. Olney thence turned easterly onto what is now Sessions Street (extending past the Brown University Botanical Gardens- now Brown Stadium, past Elmgrove Ave. to Cole Ave). In 1897 Olney St. became Morris as it exists today.

1894 August 28. Providence City Hall, recorder of Deeds office, Deed Book 390 pages 213, 251, to 253 records the sale of land on that block of Olney St. located between Doyle Ave. and Observatory Ave.

Frank W. Cheney and Knight D. Cheney of South Manchester, Hartford County Conn. sold to Daniel J. and J O'Connell land containing 13,817 sq. ft. bounding on Doyle Ave. and Olney St. being the whole of lots 14, 15, 19 and 34'in width and the full depth of lot #18.

September 19. Recorded at 3:10 P.M. in D.B. 390:251 the Cheney's sold to Jane O'Connell land at the s/w corner of Olney and Observatory Ave. containing 4419 sq. ft. and numbered Plat # 17, 16 and 18.

September 19. Recorded at 3:10 P.M. D.B. 390:253 the Cheney's sold to Rose O'Connell 4419 sq. ft. being Plat lots 13 and 16.

- 1894 September 19. Recorded at 3:10 P.M. the Cheney's sold to Catherine O'Connell land located at the southerly side of Observatory Ave. bounding on University land. The transaction contained 4,419 sq. ft. entitled Plat lots 12 and 13. See map 1895 by Everts and Richards (enclosed).
- 1898 March 14. John F. O'Connell was issued building permit #12339 to erect a dwelling at the s/w corner of Morris and Observatory Ave. for Catherine Rose and Jane O'Connell of 24 Darling St. became estimated cost \$4,000. This became #228 Morris Ave.
- John F. O'Connell was associated with O'Connell Bros. Inc. (provisions) located at 19 Corliss and 563 Charles St. He lived at 129 Livingstone St. Jane was a cashier at 19 Corliss, Rose was a clerk at 19 Corliss. Catherine, Rose and Jane first occupied 228 Morris Ave. in 1899.
- 1902 October 20. Permit #290 was issued to John F. O'Connell of Livingstone St. to have built a new 2½ story one family dwelling at the corner of Morris and Doyle Avenues. Daniel Kelley is listed as builder. Estimated cost 5,000. Apparently this house was built for the purpose of leasing it to Walter D. Brownell, a lawyer.
- 1903 November 12. D.B. 460:232 J. O'Connell sold to Felex Tatro the lot located on the north side of Doyle Ave. bounding Doyle 50' and containing 50 sq. ft. of land and being the lot located just westerly of assessors lot 151 (corner of Morris and Doyle).
- Ms. O'Connell made a legal recording of certain covenants in D.B. 460:232 in order to safeguard this area in which his family lived and owned property. One covenant stated that no building should be erected at the corner of Morris and Doyle Ave. Also that no fence more than 5 ft. high shall be erected.
- 1911 The House Directory of Providence shows the House was rented to Joseph and Fred Bodell-both bankers.
- 1912 April. Tax cards show the 220 Morris Ave. was sold to Elmer F. Seabury. He was an auditor at Industrial Trust Bank (now Fleet Bank), owner occupied.
- 1955 November. D.B. 1039.5 Ruth S. Andrews under the will of Seabury (WB 11-202) conveyed the property to Alexander and Esther Tanenbaum.

- 1979 November 5. D.B. 1216:521 records the sale of this property to Thomas S. Mulligan and his wife Irene M. Wielawski.
- 1989 October 4. D.B. 2114-340,341 Kenneth E. Fish became owner of 220 Morris Ave. It is listed as being owner occupied.

may 30, 1991