

Providence Preservation Society

Historic House Research

161-165 Power Street

Plat 17
Lot 246

Built 1856

for Gideon Gurnett

1854 August 1. Tax ledger 1.138 series A shows that this land belonged to Rev. Allen Brown and was valued at \$3,220. No building stood on the property at this time. He was minister at 57 North Main Street and lived at 104 Power Street.

1855 May 14. Deed Book 139.471. Allen Brown sold to John O. Potter for \$7,750, land running from Power Street to William Street, 180' bounding 100' on both sides. (Both lots 246 and 247).

This deed was transferred and recorded with this restriction that no barn or house shall be erected on said lot within 20' of William Street, or 10' of Power Street. Potter was associated with the Jewelry firm of Potter and Fenner at 82 Eddy Street. He lived at 102 Power.

1855 November 26. Deed Book 143.113. John O. Potter conveyed this 180' X 100' lot to John B. Palmer for \$7,750. The land description and building restriction remained unchanged from the previously mentioned deed of 1855.

Tax ledger A 2.232 indicates that lot 247 the W $\frac{1}{2}$ of what is presently lot 246 contained a house valued at \$2,000. Lot 246 had no house. Although Palmer's occupation is not listed, his office was in New York. His home at Waterman Avenue, corner of Cook Street.

1856 June 25. Deed Book 144:283. John B. Palmer sold to Gideon Gurnett lot 246 bounding 180' from Power to William Street and 50' on Power Street holding that width on William Street. Gideon Gurnett was associated with the firm of Gurnell and Bixby, merchant tailors at 25 South Main Street. His home was at 113 Hope St. Palmer sold lot 247 with building and improvements to Thomas Phillips. (D.B. 144.199)

1857 December 22. Deed Book 150.37 at 12:15 PM Gideon Gurnett transferred the property to his son Lewis B. Gurnett. Deed Book 150.38 at 12:25 PM shows Lewis B. transferred the property to Ann Eliza Gurnett, wife of Gideon Gurnett. Quick deed transfers such as this usually indicate a mortgage was taken on the property presumably to build the house.

The 1857 directory of Providence shows the Gurnetts moved to this house at 106 Power Street. The street has since been renumbered. This all indicates the house was built shortly after the land was purchased in 1856.

1857 See Area map of Providence by Walling, attached.

1860 October 11. Tax ledger 5.302 and Deed Book 157.313 Gideon Gurnett and his wife sold to property to John B. Anthony. The 50' X 180' land description remained the same.

At this time Anthony assumed a \$4,000 mortgage encumbrance executed between Gurnett and the Providence Institute for Savings. Anthony, who had been living on Waterman Street was the President of Providence Tool Co., located at "Charles Street and the Rail Road crossing," and 25 Wickenden Street. The 1861 directory shows him living at 106 Power.

1868 August 20. Tax assessor cards show the property belonged to Ellen D.F. Anthony, wife of John B. Anthony. John B. Anthony married Ellen De F. Miller June 20, 1854. (6:126.)

1870 Directory of Providence states that Power Street was renumbered. #106 became 161/165.

1875 See Atlas of Providence Vol. 1, Plate P attached. The Anthony's lived at this address.

1882 Area map enclosed.

1918 December 2. Tax cards show the property was transferred to Thomas F. and William F. Hussey. They were proprietors of Hussey's auto station on William Street. William Hussey was also a plumber. They lived at 2 East Street and later on John Street. The Power Street property was leased out.

- 1937 December. Thomas F. Hussey became sole owner. (Tax cards.)
- 1947 May. Property tax was paid by the Estate of Thomas F. Hussey.
- 1952 November. The property was sold to William Jakober. (Tax Card). 161 Power was rented to Marguerite Armstrong, Hilda Beaulieu and Howard Hathaway. 163 was rented to Frank Creamer.
- 1953 August. Sammartino Realty Co. Inc. purchased the property.
- 1960 December. Tax Cards show that the Lenchris Realty Corp. purchased the property.
- 1971 June 15. Deed Book 1161-1191. The property was purchased by Louis Rosenstein and Beatrice his wife and Stephen R. Lewinstein and Diana M. his wife. It appears to have remained investment property.
- 1979 July 17. Deed Book 1214.570. Harlow Sarles and Peter Jencks purchased the property.
- 1982 July 21. D.B. 1237-317. Andrew Associates purchased the property.
- 1985 June 6. Deed Book 1294.595. The property was purchased by First City Investment Group.
- 1985 Dec. 31. C.B.12/51. This property became the Power Street Condominium. C.B. 12:98 to 103. Kenneth J. Rudman, Joseph S. Rubino, John F. and Marie Elaine Dolan.

CBPace
7/12/91

