

Providence Preservation Society

Records of

225 Power Street

Plat 17

Lot 298

Plat of the What Cheer Estate belonging to the
Heirs of the late Gov. James Fenner. Plat Lot 327

Built c 1770

Moved to this location in 1884
by William H. Pope

Probably moved from lot 152,
117 Benevolent St., or one of
the original buildings on the
Fenner Farm (later called the
Dexter Estate)

- 1798 The Henry Chase Map of Providence shows this land was a portion of the Gov. Fenner Farm which contained 57 acres. (See map attached) This later became the Dexter Estate.
- 1847 July 14. The plot of land entitles, "Plat of the What Cheer Estate" belonging to the heirs of the late Gov. James Fenner was surveyed and platted by Atwater and Schubarth: Said plat was recorded at the office of land evidences in Plat Book 2, page 19, and on Plat Card 61. Plat Card 61 shows Pitman Street was called the Road to Moses Brown's Bridge. Gano was registered as Ferry St., East George as George, and Amy St. as Norfolk.
- July 15. Recorded in Deed Book 96.237-240 and pages 259 to 263. A deed was later made between James Mallett and Edward J. Mallett conveying lots on said Plat.
- 1848 October 10. Deed Book 110.304 Edward J. Mallett of New York, trustee and attorney for Charles P. Mallett of Como, Illinois, and Georgianna, wife of Charles, placed certain lots on public auction. Highest bidder for lot 327 was William Viall of Providence. This conveyance was confirmed in Deed Book 117.419 (see attached deed for the division of this large parcel of land which was originally the Fenner Farm and then became the Dexter Estate).
- 1854 August 1. Tax Ledgers 2.353, 5.234, 7.26 and 9.184, Series A, show the Power Street lot 327 belonged to the heirs of William Viall. No house or building of any sort was on this lot.
- 1875 and 1882 maps of Providence by C.E. Hopkins show no house on this lot. (see maps attached)
Note the Dexter Estate had been platted but not developed. These maps show Preston as a proposed street.
- 1884 May 15. Deed Book 325.359 shows that Plat Lot 327 (Power St.) being one of the lots which had been conveyed to William Viall was divided by him to his wife Mary B.M. Viall and by her conveyed to Nancy A. Dyer of No. Kingston, wife of Elisha and to Jane A. Harris of Andover, Mass., wife of George Harris.

It was by them conveyed to William H. Pope. The Providence Directory shows William H. Pope moved from 196 So. Main St. to 11 Young Orchard Avenue. Pope was a cotton manufacturer at 4 Market Square.

1884

June 1. Tax Ledger 7.291 Series D shows lot 327 on Power Street belonging to Pope and containing 5000 sq. ft. It was valued at 8 per sq. ft. No building was on the property.

June 2. Tax Ledger D 7.291 shows a building valued at 600 was on the lot.

Because the house was undoubtedly moved to Power Street from another location, a tax research was conducted on Mr. Pope's land holdings

Tax records indicate that in 1884 he purchased property in the area. One parcel was on Young Orchard Avenue, plat 13 lot 152. Another was lot 154 recorded in Deed Book 352.359.

1884--March 1. Ledger 7.293 D Plat 13 Assessors Lot 154 (Young Orchard) The lot contained 6,281 sq. ft. and valued at \$2,198. A dwelling was valued at \$2,000.

July 12. Ledger 7.293 D The lot remained unchanged. Under building the notation "building off" was made on July 12, 1884. No other documentation showed what became of this building.

May 1. Plat 13 Assessors Lot 152 (Benevolent Street) Ledger 7.291 Series D shows a lot containing 6049 sq. ft. was valued at \$2,117. A building on the lot was valued at \$600.

July 12. Ledger 7.293 The land remained unchanged. A house was "added" with a value of \$2000.

Lots 152 and 154 abutted each other at the rear of each lot. Lot 152 fronted on Benevolent St.; lot 154 fronted Young Orchard.

These tax ledgers indicate that the \$600 valued building may have been moved across to Power St. because Pope owned both lots, had purchased them at about the same time, and at about this time a \$600 building was "off" his Young Orchard property and one was "on" his Power Street property.

Ledgers also indicate he may have moved the \$2000 dwelling from lot 154 to 152. Moving buildings was common at the time.

Because House Directories were not published prior to 1892 it cannot be determined who lived at 225 Power St. between 1884 and 1891.

1892-1906: The house was occupied by Edward F. Purnell, a jeweler, and Mrs. Margaret Purnell. Between 1884 and 1891 the Purnells lived at 204 Williams St.

1907-1919: The house was occupied by Phillip Howard, a shipper, and later by Marriet Howard, widow.

1920 August 3. Recorded on August 6 at 1:44 p.m. in Deed Book 622.340 Catherine E. Pope conveyed the property to Estelle Martin. On August 6, 1920 Estelle Martin conveyed the property to Reginald B. Critchlow. This transaction was made subject to a mortgage of \$1200.

1923 November 16. Recorded in Deed Book 652.103 Reginald B. Critchlow and his wife Gladys conveyed the property to Michael J. Murphy and his wife Mary E.

1982 May 19. Recorded in Deed Book 1236.199 at 1:45 p.m. Anna Murphy, Cecilia Murphy, surviving spouse of James J. Murphy, Evelyn Conway, John Murphy, Gerald Murphy, Helen Murphy Furey, Charles Murphy, Alfred Correia, Robert Dodd, surviving spouse of Genevieve, Karen Dodd Antonelli, Patricia Dodd, Thomas Dodd, Michael Dodd, and Robert Dodd being all heirs at law of the late Michael J. and Mary E. Murphy conveyed said property to Dennis M. Murphy.

August 19. Deed Book 1237.916 Dennis J. Murphy conveyed the property to John H. Jacoby.

Research shows the following residents of 225 Power Street:

1882-1906: Edward F. Purnell, jeweler
Mrs. Margaret Purnell, widow

1907-1919: Phillip Howard, shipper
Mrs. Harriet Howard, his spouse
1921-1923: Reginald B. Critchlow, machinist
1924-1944: Michael Murphy, employed at Gorham Mfg. Co.
1945-1980: Anna V. Donahue (Murphy)
Present Occupant: John H. Jacoby