

PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Records of

Plat 16
Lot 82

#296-302 SOUTH MAIN STREET...Brick

- 1847 ~~INDENTURE~~: Harriet Brown of the first part and the Pioneer Fire Company of the second part, established by legislature. The party of the first part farm leases to the party of the second part a certain lot of land for ten years (renewable) ~~a certain lot of land~~ at an annual rental of \$122.50...Bounded: Beginning 13' 9"N from the brick wall of Thayer's Mansion House, 49' on South Main Street, thence E/ly holding the width and parallel with the line of the property of Thayer 44' 10"; E parallel with the street 49'; S parallel with the N line of the Brick Wall 44' 10"...with the provision that all buildings and other improvements that shall be at any time erected shall be held pledged as due payment of rent, taxes and interest...105.398 DB
- 1854 The Pioneer Fire Company quit claims to Stephen Mason, and Samuel Arnold treasurers, a certain BRICK BUILDING on the E side of South Main Street on land leased of Mrs Patrick Brown..plus fixtures.... the lease dated 1847...DB 137.209
- 1954 Property taxed to the Pioneer Fire Company (City)
- 1857 Property was taxed to Harriet Brown and to her heirs for many years and in
- 1950 Taxed to R I Hospital Trust for the heirs u/w Desmond Fitzgerald for Caroline E Van Rensselaar, Harriot F Clark, and Stephen S Fitzgerald 3/4; Eleanor F Francke 1/8; and Desmond Fitzgerald 1/8.
- 1951 Property taxed to the City of Providence
- 1951 R I Hospital Trust Company u/w Desmond Fitzgerald sell to the City of Providence a certain lot of land with all buildings and improvements of the N/Wly side of Pioneer Lane between South Main and Well Street Bounded: W by South Main Street 49.21'; N 45.30', 26.14'E and another 45.26' N by Samuel S Edward Inc; E by Well Street 23'.07; S by Pioneer Street. ...DB 991.149

PIONEER FIRE COMPANY BUILDING**NOTE:**

This building is shown in photograph of William Harding House, 276-282 South Main Street, Providence, HABS No. RI-234

Address: 296-302 South Main Street, Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island.

Present Owner: The City of Providence.

Brief Statement of Significance: This is a two-story masonry building, built by one of the early volunteer fire companies in Providence between 1847 and 1854.

References: John Hutchins Gedy, The Civic and Architectural Development of Providence 1636-1930 (Providence, Rhode Island: The Book Shop, 1977), p. 123.

Original and Subsequent Owners:

1847 **ISSUANCE:** Harriet Brown of the first part and the Pioneer Fire Company of the second part, established by legislature. The party of the first part firm leases to the party of the second part a certain lot of land for ten years (renewable) at an annual rental of \$122.50....**Bounded:** Beginning 13' 9" N from the brick wall of Thayer's Mansion House, 49' on South Main Street, thence E/ly holding the width and parallel with the S line of the property of Thayer 44' 10"; E parallel with the street 49'; S parallel with the N line of the Brick Wall 44' 10"....with the provision that all buildings and other improvements that shall be at any time erected shall be held pledged as due payment of rent, taxes and interest. - Deed Book 105, page 396, in Providence City Hall.

1849 - PR Ord 40 #16825 Pioneer Fire Co on Lease 1849
1854 The Pioneer Fire Company quit claims to Stephen Mason, and Samuel Arnold treasurers, a certain BRICK BUILDING on the E side of South Main Street on land leased of Mrs. Patrick Brown...plus fixtures...the lease dated 1847. - Deed Book 137, page 209, in Providence City Hall.

1954 Property taxed to the Pioneer Fire Company (city)

1897 Property was taxed to Harriet Brown and to her heirs for many years and in

1930 Taxed to RI Hospital Trust for the heirs u/w Desmond Fitzgerald for Caroline E Van Rensselaer, Harriet F Clark, and Stephen S Fitzgerald 3/4; Eleanor F Francke 1/8 and Desmond Fitzgerald 1/8.

1951 R I Hospital Trust Company u/w Desmond Fitzgeralds sell to the City of Providence a certain lot of land with all buildings

and improvements of the N/Wly side of Pioneer Lane between South Main and Well Street Bounded: W by South Main Street 49.21'; N 45.30', 26.14'E and another 45.26' N by Samuel S. Edward Inc; E by Well Street 23'.07; S by Pioneer Street. - Deed Book 991, page 149 in Providence City Hall.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdy
for the Providence Preservation Society, May 1962

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

General Statement: This is a masonry building, one of the few remaining examples of the type in which the ground floor is opened up by a stone framing system, using monolithic granite posts one story high, and heavy granite lintels to support the brick wall above.

Condition of fabric: Poor.

Overall dimensions: About 50' wide, faces west, two stories in front; on hillside, one story in rear.

Foundations: Stone.

Wall construction: Brick front and sides, common bond. Granite frame on first floor shop fronts. Fieldstone rear, plastered over.

Chimneys: Two brick chimneys in the end walls.

Openings:

Doors: Four-panel wood rear door; Greek Revival moldings.

Windows: Six over six light double-hung wood windows on sides and rear. Stone lintels and sills.

Roof:

Shape, covering: Gable roof--rolled asphalt roofing. Brick parapets at gable ends.

Floor plans: First floor interior apparently entirely changed. Second floor is one undivided room.

Site: The building faces west in an old business district, on the sidewalk line at the front.

Prepared by Gerard R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
May 1962.