

Providence Preservation Society

Records of

224 Bowen Street

Plat #10

Assessors Lot #586

Halsey Plat #2

Frank Mathewson House  
built 1884  
J. L. Sprague, builder  
William R. Walker & Son, Architects

- 1863 November. Plat entitled "Plat of Lots on the North Side of Bowen Street" laid out and drawn by Cushing & DeWitt. Said Plat was recorded at the office of the Providence Recorder of Deeds in Plat Book 6, page 17, and on Plat Card 167.
- 1864 January 1. Tax Ledger 6.340 Series A shows this land belonged to Albert Dailey and was valued at 12 per sq. ft.
- 1868 August 1. Tax Ledger 1.65 Series B shows this lot containing 3,697 sq. ft. was transferred to Martha W. Appleton, wife of Elisha W. Appleton. Value remained the same.
- 1869 February 20. Tax Ledger 4.224 Series B and 5.278 Series C and Deed Book 183.335 show this lot was conveyed to Theodore W. Phillips. The land was revalued to 20 per sq. ft.
- 1873 July 1. Recorded in Deed Book 243.133 and Tax Ledger 5.343, 7.127 Series C. Theodore W. Phillips conveyed to Charles F. Page this certain lot on the northerly side of Bowen St. containing 4,615 sq. ft. Value remained at 20 per sq. ft. No house was on the property.
- 1882 July 18. Deed Book 316.372 Frank M. Mathewson purchased this lot of land from Charles F. Page. The transaction is also recorded in Tax Ledger 6.96 Series D. The land was revalued to 30 per sq. ft.
- 1883 June 20. F. M. Mathewson filed an intention to build a 2½ story wood dwelling about 35' high. The builder is listed as J.L. Sprague. Estimated cost was \$5,500.00. Certificate #2015 was issued.
- June 30. Mr. Mathewson was taxed for an unfinished dwelling valued at \$2,000. Mathewson was a merchant at 10½ South Water Street.
- 1884 June 2. The land value remained unchanged. The building was revalued (completed) to \$8,185.00.
- 1886 January 15. Ledger 6.96 Series D. Land value remained unchanged. The building was revalued to \$8,554.00. Tax Ledger 6.441 Series E The property was transferred to Rachael G.

Mathewson, wife of Frank M. Mathewson. Deed Book 335.41, 335.42 and 388.86 records additional transfers of land on the northerly side of Bowen Street near Thayer to Rachael G. Mathewson.

1905 The Mathewsons owned the property for 20 years. On Nov. 6 in Deed Book 476.244 Rachael G. Mathewson, wife of Frank M. formerly of Providence now of New York, granted to Charles C. Gardiner of Providence said property located near the northwesterly corner of Bowen & Thayer Streets.

1908 March 1. Recorded in Deed Book 493.356 on April 6, 1908 George E. Martin and his wife Ellen, and Frank M. Mathewson and Rachael G. J. his wife, conveyed to Charles C. Gardner certain land consisting of 4577 sq. ft. located on the north side of Bowen Street. This land, now a portion of lot 586, was originally lot 462 purchased by Pasley Mathewson on April 24, 1884 Recorded in Deed Book 326.224.

1919 February 1. Assessors Tax Cards show that this property became the property of Ethelind R. Gardiner, widow of Charles C. Gardiner.

1926 September 7. Building Permit #2491 was issued to C.C. Gardiner to erect a private garage.

1927 September 26. Permit #2678 was issued to Mrs. C. Gardiner to extend the house and second story and to change certain windows.

1930 July 7. Permit #1708 was issued to Mrs. Charles C. Gardiner to make alterations on the dwelling located on lots 586 & 462. The architect is listed as Howe & Church. The builder is O'Ahlborg & Son.

1938 October 13. Permit #2158 was issued to Ethelind R. Gardiner to have wood repairs made because of hurricane damage.

1941 November 6. Permit #1939 was issued to Mrs. Gardiner for an addition and alterations. Architect is listed as Edwin Emory Cull; builder as E. Sandquest.

December 30. Recorded in Deed Book 842.398 Ethelind R. Gardiner conveyed to Charles C. Gardiner, Jr. that certain lot or parcel of land with buildings and improvements situated on the northerly side of Bowen Street bounded as follows: Commencing at the southeast corner of the premises hereby conveyed at a point in the north line of Bowen Street 77.76' west from the intersection of Bowen & Thayer Sts.; bounding east 91.11' by land of Mary W. Comstock; thence turning west bounded by land of Mary Comstock, F. Snowden Skinner, Charles W. North and Mary Croft, to land of Lewis B. Porter; thence turning south bounded by Porter land 93.367' to Bowen St.; thence east bounding on Bowen St. 130' to the point and place of beginning.

This transaction conveys land acquired by deed from Rachel G. J. Mathewson in 1905 and from George E. Martin et al in 1908. (Deed Book 493.356)

1942 June 15. Tax Assessor Cards show this became the property of the Charles C. Gardiner estate.

1948 March 20 (Probate) and June 3 (D.B. 937) Industrial Trust Co. became guardian of the estate of Marcia H. Gardiner, minor. This property was sold to John L. Allen and his wife Marian. The property had remained with the Gardiner family for 42 years.

1955 August 1. Recorded in November in Deed Book 1039.267 The property was sold to George O. Potter by John L. and Marian Allen. The lot is described as measuring south on Bowen 130' west 93' north 130' east 91'; being 77.76' from the intersection of Bowen and Thayer. Said parcel comprises plat lots 3 & 4 together with portions of lots 2 & 5 on the forementioned plat.

1960 December. Violetta M. Morris became owner of the property.

1961 April 11. Deed Book 1108.125 Industrial National Bank, executor under the will of George O. Potter, conveyed the property to Albert C. Thompson of West Hartford, Conn. Violetta M. Morris released all her right of title.

1966 March 3. Deed Book 1136.40 Said property was conveyed to Fred S. Licht.

1968 June 6. Deed Book 1147.1080 The property was transferred to Walter S. Feldman and his wife Barbara D.

1982 Sept. 22. Deed Book 1238.497 The property was conveyed to Robert F.X. Hart and his wife Alice W.

Research indicates the following residents:

1882 Frank M. Mathewson lived at 7 Keene St. He was associated with the Parley M. Mathewson Co., merchants at 10½ South Water Street.

John L. Sprague, builder of the house, lived at 107 Harrison St. His business address is listed as being at the foot of Manchester Street.

1884 Frank M. Mathewson lived at 124 Bowen until 1906.

1890 Mathewson became President of the Oakdale Mfg. Co., 55 Peck St.

1895 124 Bowen was changed to 224 Bowen.

- 1906 Mathewson moved to New York City.  
Charles C. Gardiner is listed at 224 Bowen. He was Pres.  
& Tres. of Charles C. Gardiner Lumber Co. at 258 Eddy St.
- 1919-45 Ethelind R. Gardiner, widow, at 224 Bowen.
- 1949 Mrs. Gardiner was still listed at this address.  
Also, Mrs. Elena Gardiner, widow of Charles Jr., and  
John L. Allen who was associated with John Hancock Ins.
- 1955 The Allen family is listed at this address.
- 1956-60 George O. Potter - no occupation listed.
- 1961 Vacant
- 1962-67 Albert C. Thompson (Eliz. R.); associated with Providence  
Washington Insurance
- 1968-present Nancy Rosenberg, teacher, Providence School Dept.  
Robert F.X. Hart, ex-director, United Way.