PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Records of

#21 MEETING STREET....Wood

Built 1772 by John Carter.....

1767 Eve Burnon, single woman, sells for 50 good Spanish milled Dollars to John Crawford, mariner a certain lot of land bounded: N by Jail Lane 190'; E by Gideon Crawford 100'; S by John'Angell 190'; W 1800' 100'...DB 18,226

1769 DISCHARGE: John Carter, printer, and Anne Carter his wife give for 111 L, one shilling, 7 pence lawful money to John Updike, merchant, being part of the Estate which belonged to John Crawford and set off to Ann (Crawford) Updike whose land it now is....And I John Updike hereby acknowledge full satisfaction for the within deed and hereby discharge the same from my demands...DB 18,349

1906 Heirs of John Carter sell to Stephen O Metcalf a certain lot of land bounded: N by Meeting Street 203'; E by Benefit Street 118.3'; S by City of Providence and State of Rhode Island, formerly Martin W Thurber 219'; W by City of Providence 118.3' and is known as the John Carter Estate...DB 269 to 270 and 272.

1906 Stephen O Metcalf quit claims the above property to the N Y, N H and Hartford Railway Company....DB 181,195

1925 New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company Quit Claim to James M Stockard a certain lot of land meaning to convey all that portion or parcel of land deeded to grantor by Stephen O Metcalf in 1906 except that portion conveyed to Rhode Island (DB 181,196) with a 20' roadway privilege (See Map)...DB 666,401

1938 Peirce H Brereton and R I Hospital Trust Company, administrators of the Estate of James M Stockard sell to Shakespeare's head Association that parcel of land with all buildings and improvements on the S/W side of Meeting Street being part of premises conveyed to James Stockard by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company in 1925, bounded: E by other land of James Stockard; S by N Y, N H, and Hartford R R Company and the City of Providence 66.92'; W by Peter J Woolf 105,78'; N by Meeting Street 107.41' the E boundary being 95' from the corner of Benefit and Meeting Streets...(See Map) DB 807,229
SHAKESPEARE'S HEAD GARDEN

Twenty-five years ago the city condemned the home and printing shop of John Carter, distinguished printer and publisher of the PROVIDENCE GAZETTE, ancestor of today's PROVIDENCE JOURNAL. A group of public spirited citizens rallied to save the building, and today Carter's home, a shrine to printing in Rhode Island, again plays a useful role in the community's life.

While the grounds were being cleared, evidence of the early garden scheme was uncovered. The lines of the original beds were carefully noted and a plan for restoration was prepared by James D. Graham, landscape architect, and was carried out by the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, who have undertaken the maintenance of the restored garden. (The members have been given the use of the ground floor south room for their devoted care of the garden). Today a wonderful Colonial Garden, ranged along a stone retaining wall, is recreated in the brick edged walks that form a formal pattern around the central circular bed and here the old fashioned flowering trees, shrubs and flowers bloom and fade with the passing seasons as did similar plants in Amey Crawford Carter's garden long ago.

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