

Providence Preservation Society

Records for

70 Stimson Avenue

Plat 11

Lot 30

built 1887

for Stephen Waterman

- 1837 April. The first platting of this section was made by James Scott for John Hones Stimson. Said platting was recorded with the city of Providence recorder of land evidences on Card 433.
- Stimson Avenue was named for J..J. Stimson, a wealthy wine and grozery merchant who had purchased the Dexter Farm House.
- 1858 October. The original 1837 platting of this section abutting the Dexter Asylum was redrawn by Schubarth, C.E.
- 1882 The John Jones Estate was replatted and drawn by George Tingley, Civil Engineer. (3,958 acres.)
- 1882 Atlas of Providence shows this house had not yet been built. See copy attached.
- 1887 Emily S. Diman conveyed to Stephen Waterman 2 parcels of land. The first was recorded on May 4, 1887 in Deed Book 341:459, the second on Sept. 15. 1887 in D.B. 344:1. The land transfered in these two deeds from the present assessors lot 30 measuring aprox. 90' X 102' X 90.36' X 104' and containing 9,158 sq. ft.

1887 June 14. Stephen Waterman filed an "Intent to Build" a 2½ story, wooden, one family dwelling on the easterly side of Stimson Avenue, second lot N. of Angell St.

Stone, Carpenter, and Wilson are listed as Architects, Dexter Gordon as Builder. Est. cost \$8,000.

Prior to 1923 building permits were required but people often filed an intent to build.

1887 Directory of Providence shows Waterman living at 72 Meeting Street.

1887 Sept. 21. Marriage book 15:114. Stephen Waterman married Eva Nicholson. He was 23. She was 17. His parents names were Stephen and Harriet Waterman, hers were William and Elizabeth Nicholson.

It appears that Harriet B. Waterman, Stephen's mother, died in 1886, the year after Stephen was born. Stephen's father also named Stephen, died in 1871. Stephen Waterman Sr. was a cotton broker on So. Water Street and lived at 72 Meeting Street. When Stephen Sr. died, he left his mother Eliza Waterman as guardian of the estate and of the minor children, namely Paul, William and Stephen. In 1876, Harold P. Waterman became guardian of Stephen Jr. (Probate docket A 9046, A 10241, A 10238, A 10283, and A 11642.)

1888 Directory shows Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Waterman living at the Stimson Avenue address. His business is listed as the Nicholson-Waterman MFG. Co. , manufacturers of tools and machinery located at the corner of Beverly and Mason Streets. (Later his business is listed as the "Bar Lock Type - Writer Co. located at 86 Weybosset St.)

The Watermans were residents here from 1887 to 1911.

1911 Jan. 14. Recorded in Deed Book 516.384. The property was purchased by Arthur Livingston Kelley Jr., Pres. of the Eagleville Co. located at 100 Grosvenor Building. Another Arthur Kelley lived at 53 Stimson Avenue and was Pres. of the Mechanical Fabric Co. at 40 Sprague St. and also Pres. of N.E. Lighting Co. located at 170 Westminster St.

1917 Aug. 24. Arthur Livingston Kelley Jr. transferred the property to Olive Maltby Kelley. (D.B. 569:293)

Arthur Kelley and Olive D. Maltby were married May 15, 1911. (M. Book 22:108)

The Kelleys retained the property from 1911 to 1955.

1955 November. D.B. 1037-321. The property was purchased by Marcus Munsill and Sally B., his wife. Munsill had a cotton yarns business located at 111 Westminster St. Room 537.

1965 December 15. D.B. 1134-731. Marc J. and Eleanor Pearlman purchased the property. He is listed as Pres. Sterling Engineering Construction Co.

1982 Oct. 5. D.B. 1238-798. This property was purchased by William Adams III and Rebeca E. Adams, his wife.