

Providence Preservation Society

Records of

74 Transit Street

Plat 16
Lot 374

Randall Holden House
built in 1788 by Esek Dexter
Also known as #24 Transit St. in 1824
" " " #39 " " " 1847
" " " #58 " " " 1875

1769 June 3. Transit area was named to commemorate the Transit of Venus. "Here an observatory for the event was constructed a little south-east of Benefit Street." (King's Pocketbook of Providence, by Moses King, City Archives) A map drawn in 1754 referred to in Henry R. Chase's book, Owners & Occupants of the Lots. Houses & Shops in the Town of Providence 1798 shows this street was called the Road to India Point.

1787 November 30. Recorded in Providence Deed Book 21.579 on May 12, 1788, Joseph Tillinghast, owner of this property, a mariner, sold to Benjamin Dexter, mariner, and Esek Dexter, housewright, that certain lot of land located in the southeasterly part of town bounded southerly by Transit Lane 40'; easterly by land of Andrew Cole 90'; northerly by land of Christopher Arnold 40' and bounding westerly on other land of this grantor 90'. This was sold for 33 pounds Lawful Silver Money.

1788 June 12. Recorded in Providence Deed Book 21.679 on April 19, 1790. Esek Dexter, housewright, conveys to Randall Holden Jr., mariner, formerly of Warwick now a resident of Providence, one half part of a lot set towards the southeasterly part of town, bounded on Transit Lane 40', holding that width on a parallel with Transit Lane to the land of Andrew Cole Hurs, turning a corner running 90' to the land of Benjamin Dexter, brother of this grantor.

The westernmost half part is separated from the other half by a partition line to be drawn through the middle of said lot. Together with the half part of the dwelling house thereon standing, which half part of said house is described as follows, "The southwest cellar kitchen and 1/2 the cellar, the southwest front room, and the back bedroom on the second floor. On the third floor the rooms directly over the front room and bedroom. Also the middle room on the north side and one half the garret, together with equal privileges in the entries, front and back stairs throughout the said house. Also in the well a little eastward of the house and in the outhouses on said lot.

1788-1847 Randall Holden family lived here.

HOLDEN PAPERS #1142 located at R.I. Historical Society show that Frederick Augustus Holden was born on July 4, 1830 at # 24 Transit Street in the house built by his grandfather in 1788 and where his father was born in 1792. He was the son of Randall and Catherine Morgan Deming Holden.

1795 April 15. City Return Book, paving, (city archives) Transit Lane made wider, paving graded from Benefit St. to Rope Walk.

1796 October 26. Deed Book 24.357 Benjamin Dexter, mariner, sold to Elizabeth Holden, widow, of Providence, one half part of said property making widow Holden owner of the entire lot and dwelling house. Payment for said conveyance is recorded at \$1,900.

The property transferred from Elizabeth Holden to her daughter Eliza Holden and Mary Peune. Recorded in Deed Book 65.249, 65.250 on November 22, 1834.

1826 August. Transit Lane was graded from Main St. to Benefit St. (city archives), paving book, street returns.

1844 April 15. Paving was graded from Benefit Street to Brook Street. (City Archives, paving book, city returns).

May 20. Recorded in Deed Book 89.202 Mary Pierce and Eliza Holden convey to Arba B. Dike lot, dwelling house and other improvements on said property bounded north by Transit Street 40'; east by Cole land 90'; west by John R. Dennis 90'; north by Humphrey Walker 40', being the "same estate conveyed to our late father, Randall Holden in 1788 and the other part to our late mother Elizabeth Holden in 1796".

Providence Fire Policy records for 1844, Vol. 29 #11672 state that Arba Dike insured his property located on the northerly side of Transit Street. This property is described as a wood dwelling house, 35 by 25. 3 stories high in front, 2 in rear.

1854 August 1. Tax Ledger Series A 1.250 Arba Dike's property on Transit Street contained 3,538 square feet, land value of \$1,415; building value of \$1,500. This remained the same until 1873. This dwelling appears on the Walling Map of Providence 1857.

1873 October 27. Deed Book 243.493 Arba B. Dike sold this previously described estate to Charles Diamond. Value of the property was increased to 1,592 for land and \$1,800 for building. (Tax Ledger C. 2,392, 2, 321. Elena Dike, wife of Arba, released her right of dower to said property for consideration paid to her husband by C. Diamond.

1875 January 15. Tax Ledger 2.397 Series C The property was conveyed from Charles Diamond to Leopold Diamond. This conveyance was also recorded in Deed Book 249.521. The City Atlas of 1875 shows the house as a square shape. The next city atlas, 1882, shows an addition to the back of the house. See attached sketches.

1894 May 1. Recorded in Deed Book 385.393 and Tax Ledger E 3.393 and E 7.526. L. Diamond sold said property to Michael O'Shea and Joannah, his wife.

1923 May 28. Recorded in Deed Book 641.207 Joannah O'Shea sold said property to Francis R. Macedo, Ermilinda P. Macedo, Jose R. Macedo, Rose P. Macedo. The property is described as bounding 40' on Transit St. holding that width extending back 90'.

- 1953 December. City Tax Records show the property was owned by Ermilinda P. Macedo $\frac{1}{2}$, Jose R. Macedo $\frac{1}{4}$, and Rose P. Macedo $\frac{1}{4}$.
- 1959 December. City Tax Records show the property was conveyed to Angelina M., Frank, Alice and Joseph Macedo.
- 1964 July 28. Recorded in Deed Book 1126.796 Charlesfield Incorporated, a R.I. corporation authorized to do business in the state of Rhode Island purchased said property.
- 1979 November 7. Deed Book 1214.547 Charlesfield, Inc. Frank O'Doyle, President, conveyed to Helen Hope Doyle this property described as being at a point on the northerly side of Transit Street 112.66' easterly on the northeasterly corner of Transit and Benefit Streets.

House census researched show 5 year intervals, more or less.

- 1788-1844 Owned and occupied by the Holden family.
- 1844-1873 Owned by Arba Dike (He owned an extensive amount of property). He is listed in the directories of 1850 to 1870 as a stockbroker at 5 Washington Building House, 20 Benefolent Street. Apparently, his Transit Street property was leased out.
- 1874-1875 Charles Diammond owned the property but is not listed as living in Providence.
- 1875-1894 Leopold Diamond owned the property and lived at 601 North Main St.
- 1894 Michael O'Shea who lived next door purchased the property which was occupied by the following:
- 1895- Mary Corrigan, widow
Martin Costello, laborer
Mary Craven, widow
Michael Craven, barber
Martin Honan, baker
Charles McCarthy, laborer
Michael O'Shea, laborer
- 1900- John E. Boyle, clerk
Michael Boyle, teamster
Joseph Enos, teamster
William MacKensie, carpenter-painter
Michael O'Shea, variety store
- 1909- Michael Smith, barber
Manuel Fontes, laborer
William Shaw, laborer
- 1914-1921- John Mello, screw company
Antone Silva, laborer

1924-1925- Edward Partridge, laborer

1930-1934- 68 Transit: Mrs. Joanna O'Shea (The O'Shea family which had recently sold this property was still residing next door at 68 Transit Street.)

74 Transit: Manuel Silva, laborer
Antone Costa, "
Frank Lema, "
Francis Soares, "

1935-1939- Manuel S. Lapnha

1940-1944- Anthony Amaral
Joseph Jordan
Manuel Rezendes
Beatrice A. Logan

1945-1949- Mary Rezendes
John Rezendes
Francis Pirannunzi
Charles Crispo

1950-1954- Mary Rezendes
Joseph Britto
Irene Crispo
Arthur De Fontes

1955-1959- Albert Rezendes
Antone Almeida
Harriet Allard

1960-1963- Harriet Allard Albert Rezendes
Peter J. Freeman Joseph Britto
Mecedo next door

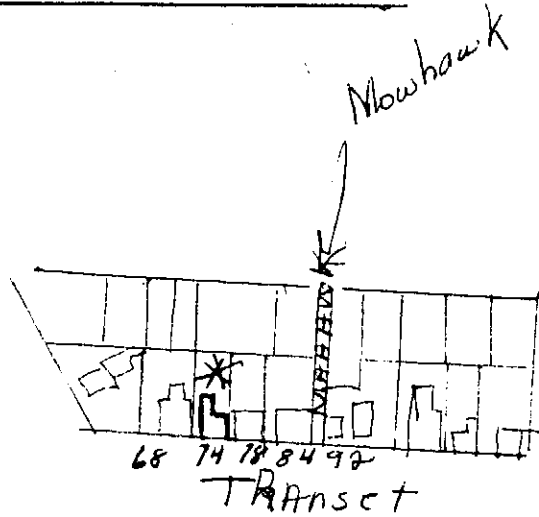
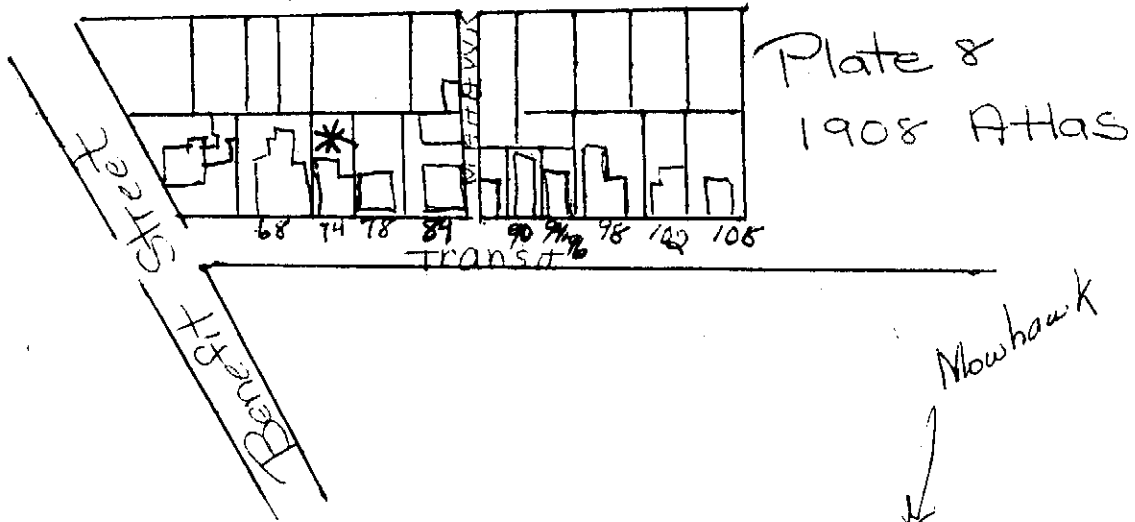
1964-1965- 74 Transit (Vacant) 78 Transit (Vacant)

1970-1974- Richard Kahn Nancy Fisher
Richard Schmidt Jack Creaser

1975-1976- Nancy DeRoche Catherine Johnson
Joseph P. Alaimo

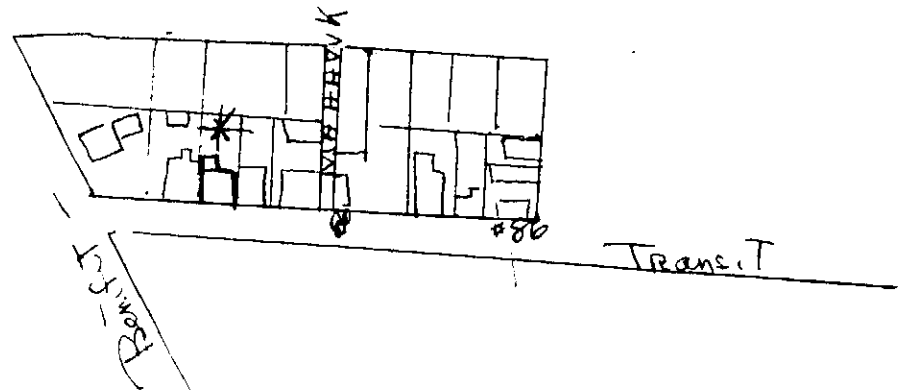
After 1977 City Directories were not maintained at the Providence City Archives

Researched by:
Carole Brown Pace
December, 1984



1895

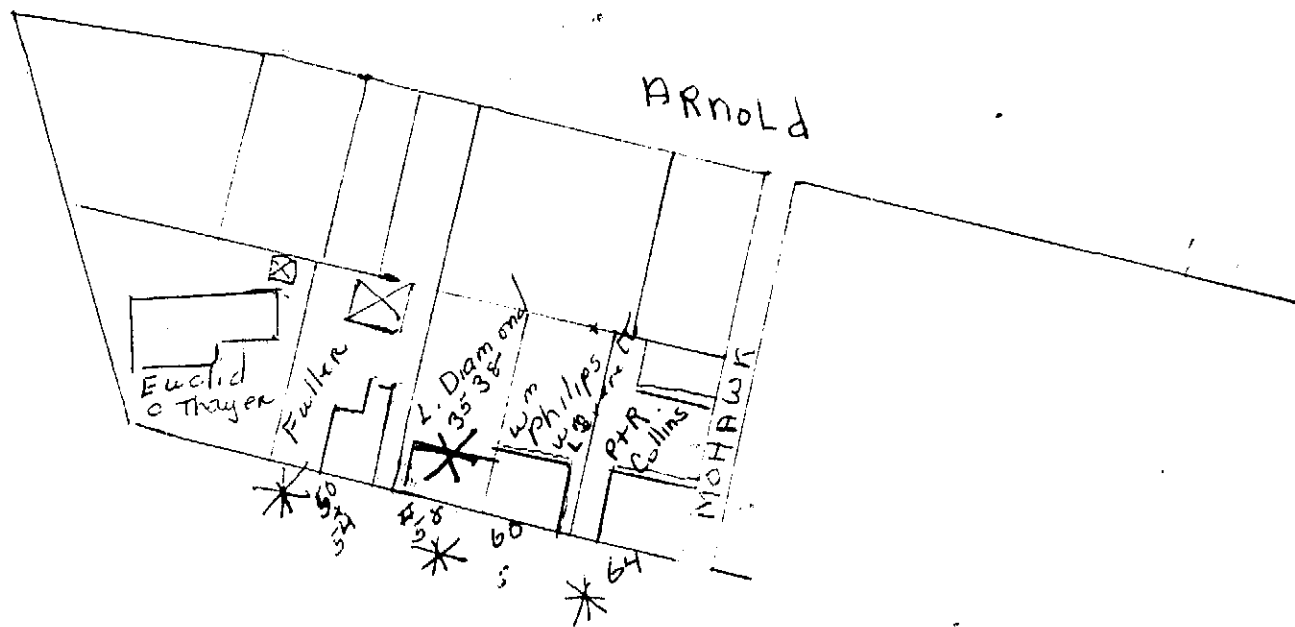
1882 Plate 1



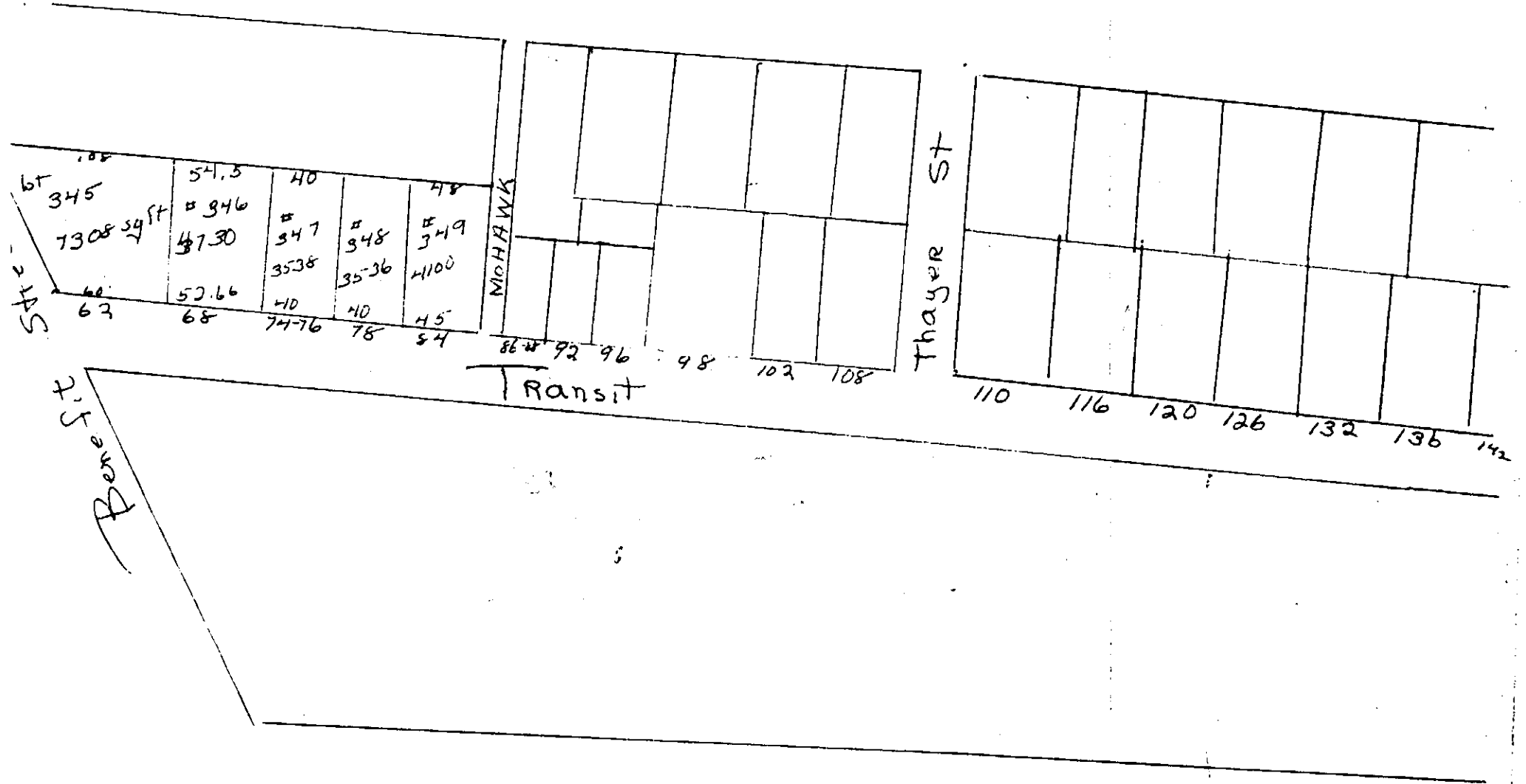
No Names
or Street
numbers

Plate P
Vol 1.

1875 Atlas



Assessors Map 1984



PROVIDENCE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Records of

Plat 16
Lot 347#74-~~75~~ TRANSIT STREET...wood

#24 in 1824

#39¹ in 1847

#58 in 1875

1788 Joseph Tillinghast, mariner, sells for 33 £ lawful silver money to Benjamin and Esek Dexter, mariners, a certain lot of land in the S/Ely part of Town bounded: S by Transit Lane 40'; E by Andrew Cole 90'; N by Christopher Arnold 40'; W by grantor. 90'..DB 21.579

1788 Esek Dexter, housewright, sells for 475 Spanish milled dollars to Randall Holden, mariner, one moiety or $\frac{1}{2}$ part of a certain lot of land being the westernmost and separate from the other by a partition line drawn through the middle of said lot parallel with the E and W lines...it being the ^{same} grantor and brother Benjamin Dexter purchased of Joseph Tillinghast...together with the $\frac{1}{2}$ part of the DWELLING HOUSE thereon standing which $\frac{1}{2}$ part of said house is described as follows; To wit: The S/W cellar kitchen and $\frac{1}{2}$ the cellar; the S/W front room and back bedroom on the 2nd story. On the 3rd story the room directly over the said front room and bedroom. Also the middle kitchen on the N side and $\frac{1}{2}$ the garret, together with equal privileges in the entries, front and back stairs throughout the said house. Also in the well a little E of the house and in the outhouses on said lot standing...Deed Book ...21/679

1788 Randall Holden lived here and/or family until 1847

1814 PROVIDENCE DIRECT TAX (to pay for the War of 1812): Elizabeth Holden, widow. N side Transit Street...lot 40' x 80' with one Dwelling House 34' x 36'...2 stories high. NB: "The House is old"

1844 Mary Peirce and Eliza Holden sell for \$1700 to Arba Dike " one certain lot of land with Dwelling House bounded: N by Transit Street 40'; E by Cole heirs 90'; W by John R Dennis 90'; N by Humphrey Walker 40'...being the same estate conveyed to our late Father Randall Holden (the $\frac{1}{2}$ part) by deed from Esek Dexter in 1788 and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ part to our late mother Elizabeth Holden in 1796. Deed Book 89.202

1873 Arba Dike sells the above estate to Charles Diamond for \$5500.
Deed Book 243.493

1875 Property was taxed to Leopold Diamond

1894 Michael O'Shea owned the property (or family) until

1923 Property taxed to Francis R Macedo et al

NOTE: Frederick Augustus Holden: Born July 4, 1830 at #24 Transit Street in house built by his grandfather in 1788 and where his father was born in 1792. He was the son of Randall and Catherine Morgan (Deming) Holden. R I Hist Soc "Holden Papers" #1142