

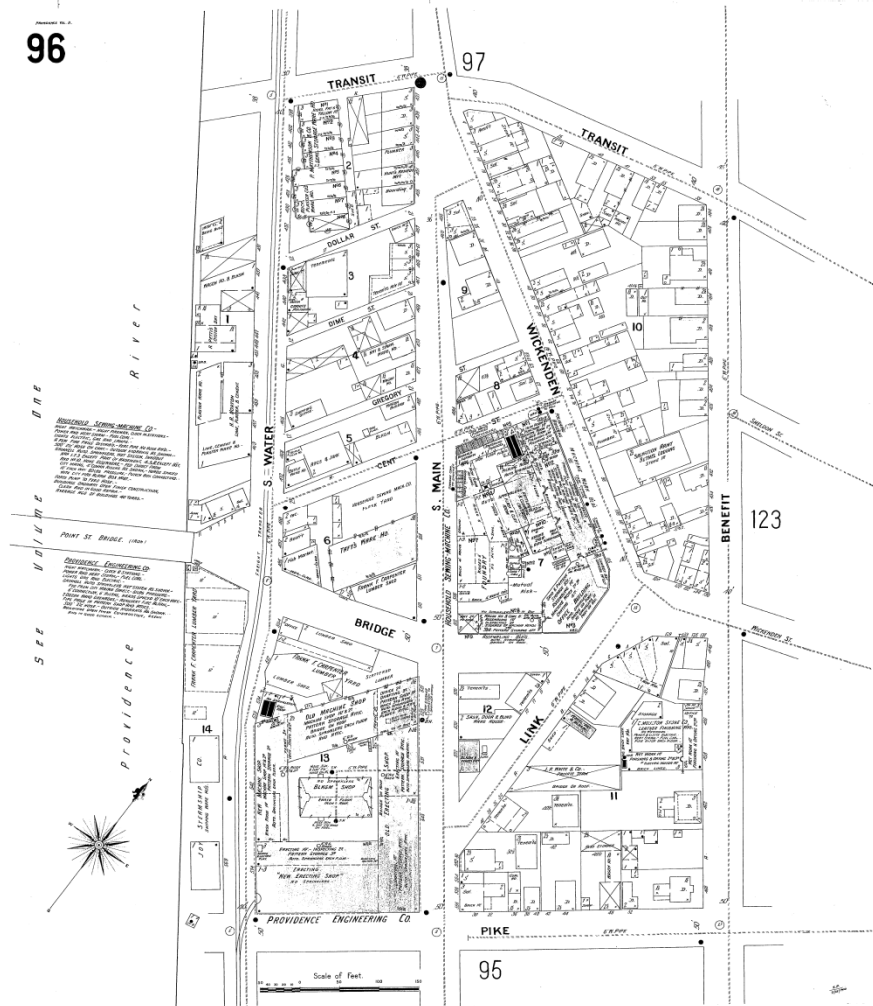
Wickenden Street

1900-2000

See bibliography for source credits

1900-1920

96

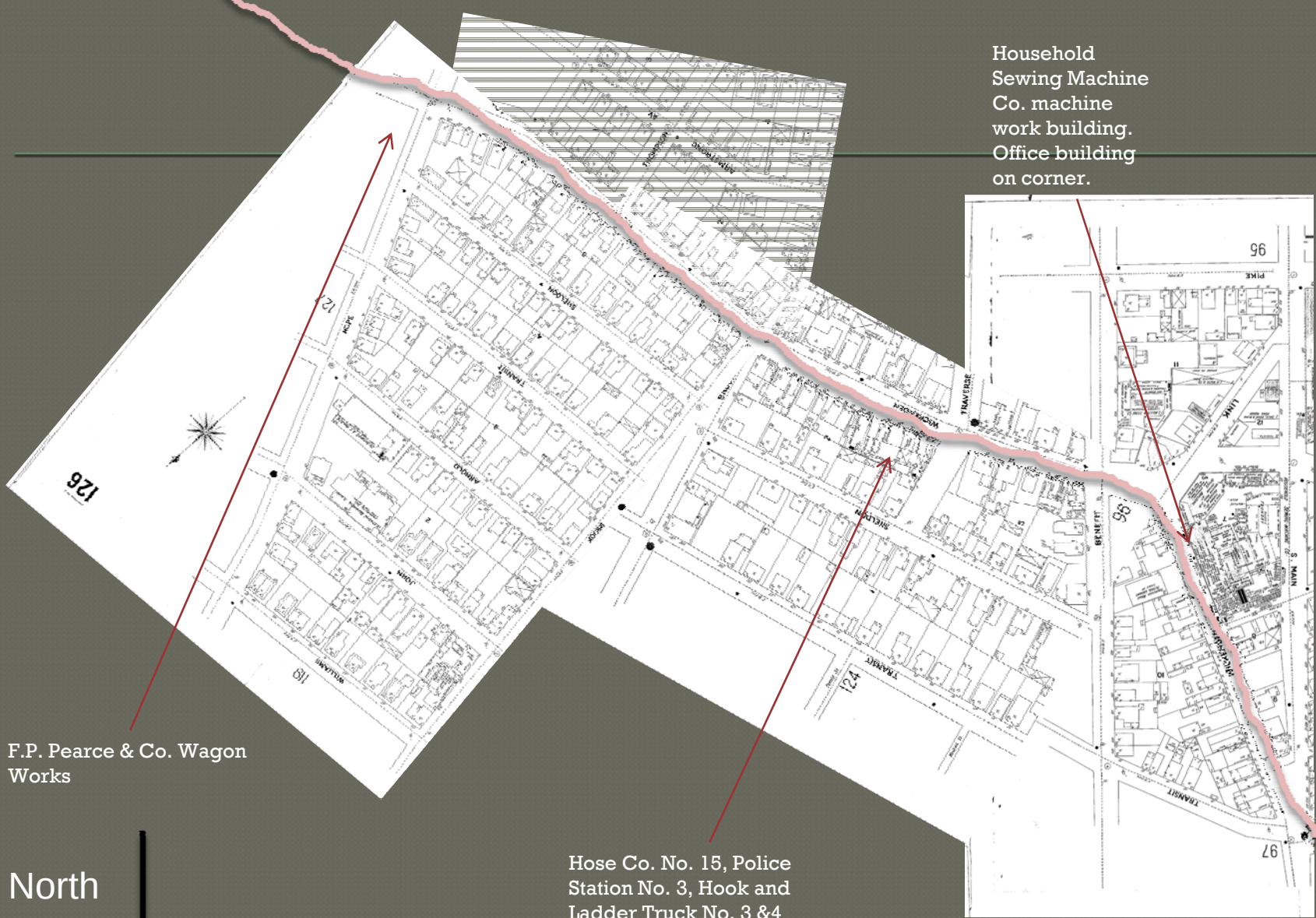


- Wickenden Street began west of Benefit Street, emerging out the intersection of Transit and South Main Streets
- The triangular area between Wickenden, South Main, and Bridge Streets was known as Burnside Square and was dominated by the buildings of the Household Sewing Machine Company (.
 - 98 Wickenden-Salvation Army Bethel Lodging was another key structure west of Benefit.
 - This section had residents and shopkeepers of mostly Irish descent, although Joseph Silva owned a variety store at 116 and Elia Boyajian ran a shoe shop at 136.
 - As it crossed Benefit, Wickenden turned northwards.
 - Notable commercial enterprises:
 - F.A. Salisbury periodicals (177)
 - Boylan Brothers grocers (243)
 - Thomas F. Monahan undertaker (221)
 - F.P. Pearce & Company Wagon Works (408-412)
 - Sullivan Brothers mineral water bottling works (577)
 - Carr Brothers grocers (673)
 - Other important buildings:
 - Hose Company Number 15 (184)
 - Third Police Station (192)
 - Hook and Ladder Company Number 4 (208-210)
 - Columbus Literary Society (374)
 - Tockwotton Park was between East and What Cheer



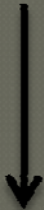
- Residential structures were mostly home to householders and boarders of Irish descent, although some Portuguese (meaning lusophone) tenants were mixed in. Organized by occupation, laborers were the largest group of residents.
- Businesses were, again, principally Irish-run.
- Shops sold things such as coal and wood, furniture, paints, dry goods, and shoes, and there were service providers—such as cobblers—present as well.





F.P. Pearce & Co. Wagon
Works

North



Hose Co. No. 15, Police
Station No. 3, Hook and
Ladder Truck No. 3 & 4

Household
Sewing Machine
Co. machine
work building.
Office building
on corner.

The Five Sullivan
Bros.

Tockwotton Park



1910-1920

- The course of Wickenden Street did not alter during this time period, although Tockwotton Park was extended easterly to Ives Street in 1911 to include playgrounds.
- West of Benefit Street:
 - U.S. Shipping Commissioner (31)
 - Fred Dean's eatinghouse (41)
 - Manuel Medeiros liquors (67)
 - The Bethel House (98) became the Salvation Army Industrial Department
 - The Household Sewing Machine Company is gone, but its buildings are partially occupied by the Eastern Machine & Stamping Company and Joseph Krupp & Co. shirt manufacturers (115)
- East of Benefit Street:
 - F.A. Salisbury, Boylan Brothers, Thomas F. Monahan, Gorman & Son, and the Five Sullivan Brothers remain
 - The police station and fire companies remain
 - Silva grocers (673) replace the Carr grocery
 - Manuel Silva's fish shop (257) replaces the Purvore fish shop
 - Adler's "men's furnishings" begins in 1919 (173)
 - Buildings between 440 and 532 are almost all residential in use.
- As indicated in some of the business changes above, residential and commercial structures were increasingly occupied by tenants with Portuguese last names, although tenants with Irish last names remain the dominant group.

1920-1930

•In 1921, the first highway improvement project done under the excess condemnation act led to the widening of Wickenden from Bridge Street northerly to Transit Street. Excess land taken included the triangle known as Burnside Square, which in 1921 was home to a variety of manufacturing works.

•West of Benefit:

- U.S. Shipping Commissioner (31)
- Salvation Army Industrial Home (98)
- Gorman & Company Importers & Grocers (4) and steamship tickets (8)
- 32-car garage
- Charles Tyler, shipping agent (27)
- Jacques Restaurant (126)
- Dry goods sellers and fishmongers occupy the other commercial real estate in this section

•East of Benefit:

- Police Station and fire companies, Thomas F. Monahan & Son (now at 207), Boylan grocery, Five Sullivan Brothers wholesale liquors and bottlers, and the Gorman Brothers were all still in place.
- Housewives League Milk Station (150)
- Canonicus Hall (219)—home to the Fox Point Athletic Club dances beginning in 1929
- Fair Public Market (434)
- Wickenden Street Bath House—built 1926 (455)
- Silva undertakers (444)
- Theophilo Brago Literary and Social Club (550)
- Portuguese Independent Club (618)

•Overall there was a diversification of commercial enterprises (e.g. Cousins Plumbers at 27, an instrument maker at 110, the Otis H. Perry Land Company at 265, New England Art & Music Company at 267, and the Rhode Island Vehicle Company truck dealers and automobile repairer at 408).

•The milk station, public market, and bath house indicate new public services that perhaps arose in response to changes in the neighborhood population.

•Evidence of the demographic shift towards a lusophone population is evident both in the increase of Portuguese-owned businesses and the emergence of social societies (the Theophilo Brago club was named after the famous Azorean playwright and politician, for example).



Original Jacques Lunch on 126 Wickenden Street. Corner of Wickenden Street and Benefit Street. Circa 1925.

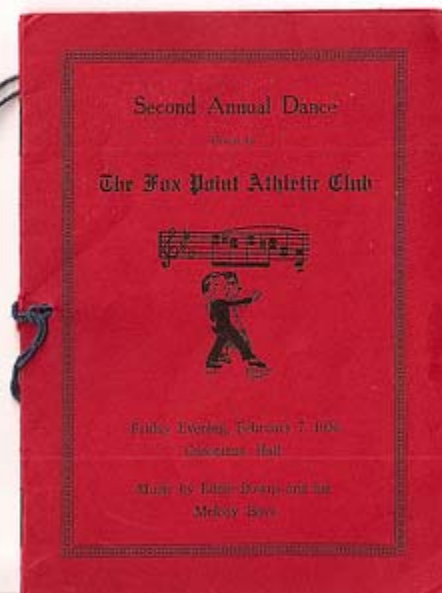
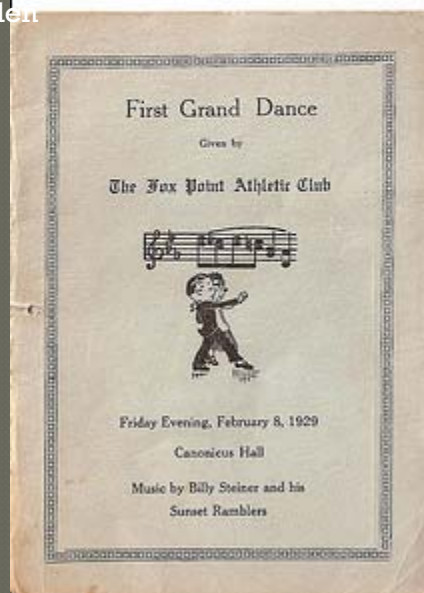


Jacques Lunch started out c. 1885 as Sullivan's Bar. In the early 1920s it became known as Jacques Lunch. Hughes and Leo Jacques are manning the counter in the photograph. Peter Rougas opened here as the Washington Lunch and continued until 1931, the year after the new bridge was built.



T. F. Monahan's Funeral Car in front of 207 Wickenden Street. Building to the left held Canonius Hall.

Brochures from 1929 and 1930 dances



1930-1940

•West of Benefit Street, the manufacturing buildings at Burnside Square were gone and the George M. Cohan (Fox Point) Boulevard was edging up from the southeast, with the automobile beginning to make an impact on Wickenden. In addition to Portuguese residential and commercial properties, some other structures of note included:

- Providence Stoneware Company (22)
- Rhode Island Public Market (40)
- Volunteers of America House (90)
- Atlantic Refining Co. filling station
- Cohen's Auto Supply Co. (123)

•Between Benefit and Brook, dramatic changes included the widening of Wickenden and the loss of structures on the south side between 142 and 171.

•Hose Company Number 15 and the Third Police Station also disappear from the map, although the Hook and Ladder Company remains.

•Businesses and organizations remaining from earlier maps:

- T.F. Monahan undertakers (207)
- Boylan grocers (243)
- Gorman family undertakers (376)
- Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (395)
- Canonicus Hall (219)
- Vreeland Brothers hoes (had been at 185 in 1900; now at 197)

•Portuguese presence continues :

- Theophilo Brago Literary & Social Club (550)
- Portuguese American Federation Club (565)
- A Voz da Colonia* (611)
- Tavares & Arruda grocers (247)

•The Five Sullivan Brothers had disappeared by the late 1930s, and the general trend seemed to be towards commercial enterprises—such as grocery stores, restaurants, and pharmacies—targeting residents.

•Tockwotton Park and Playgrounds and the neighboring City Bath Number 5 (511) was an integral aspect of recreation on Wickenden.

1940-1950

•Wickenden continued to begin around 440 South Main. Key businesses and organizations in this western portion:

- Otis Sarkis grocer (4)
- Haywood Redfern Billiards (8)
- Volunteers of America (90) and secondhand goods (104)
- Cohen Auto Supply Co. (123)
- Jacques Lunch (132)

•To the east of Benefit Street:

- Florida Fruit Market (140)
- New England Supply Co. (158)
- East Side Hardware Co. (166)
- Fred Adler dry goods (173)
- Ladder Company No. 4 (210)
- Ring Side Spa (240)
- Other bars and liquor stores—East Side bar (218), Principal Liquor Store (234), Sullivan Liquors (244), Manuel Escobar liquors (258), Farias Liquors (320), Mello Liquors (565)
- Club Instrutivo Recreativo Caboverdeano
- Sullivan Brothers Garage (348)
- Moynihan funeral director (366)
- Air Warden Station (388)
- Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. (395)
- First Ward Democratic Club (444)
- Manuel S. Atharde billiards (460)
- City Bath No. 5 (511)
- Portuguese Sport Club (550)

By the mid 1940s, Wickenden Street was a heavily lusophone area. The entrenchment of these communities is seen both in the ownership of commercial enterprises and by the continued presence of community organizations. Many of the early twentieth-century institutions (such as the Sullivan, Monahan, Gorman, and Boylan businesses) had disappeared by this point, but physical continuity was provided—at least in part—by a somewhat diminished (its eastern border was again at East Street) Tockwotton Park and Playgrounds.



East Side Bar at 218 Wickenden Street. Joe Costa, Red Shae, Joe Moura, Anthony "Taxi," Arthur Souza, Jose B. Caldeira. Circa 1940.





East Side Bar at 218 Wickenden Street. Joe Costa, Red Shae, Joe Moura, Anthony "Taxi," Arthur Souza, Jose B. Caldeira. Circa 1940.





Manual Ferriea (left),
Unknown (center), Tony Dias
(right). Manny's Bar on
Wickenden Street. Photo
Courtesy of Lou Costa



Portuguese Sporting Club. 637 Wickenden
Street. At Corner of Gano Street. September
1949.



1950-1960

•In the 1950s, Wickenden Street continued to run from 440 South Main west of Benefit Street, even after Burnside Square was completely taken for a freeway project in 1955. This section had fewer businesses and an increasing number of vacant structures, however. Some remaining tenants:

- Martin Allen billiards (8)
- Fox Point Lunch (38)
- Silva's Market (40)
- Community Bar Liquors (44)
- Volunteers of America (90) and thrift store (104)
- Cohen Auto Supply Co. (123)
- Fred's Super Service gas station (124)
- Jacques Lunch (132)

•Beyond Benefit Street, business was better and some holdovers continued from the previous decade. The mix of commercial enterprises included:

- East Side Hardware Company (166)
- Fred Adler Dry Goods (173)
- East Side bar (218)
- J.D. Filipe Travel Agency (239)
- Ring Side Spa (240), Two-Johns Tap (258), Mello's Tap (302), Farias liquors (320)
- Coelho's Market (243)
- Costa's Bakery (257)
- Fox Point Live Poultry Co. (265)
- Moynihan funeral director (366)
- Shaheen's Market (395)

•Social and community organizations maintained a presence:

- Holy Rosary Church social room (210)
- International Longshoremen's Association Local No. 1684 (328)
- First Ward Democratic Club (444)
- Tockwotton Park just before East Street
- City Bath No. 5 (511)

•A busline ran down Wickenden from the intersection with Benefit to Governor Street.



CORNER WICKENDEN + BENEFIT ST.



LULA SHARON

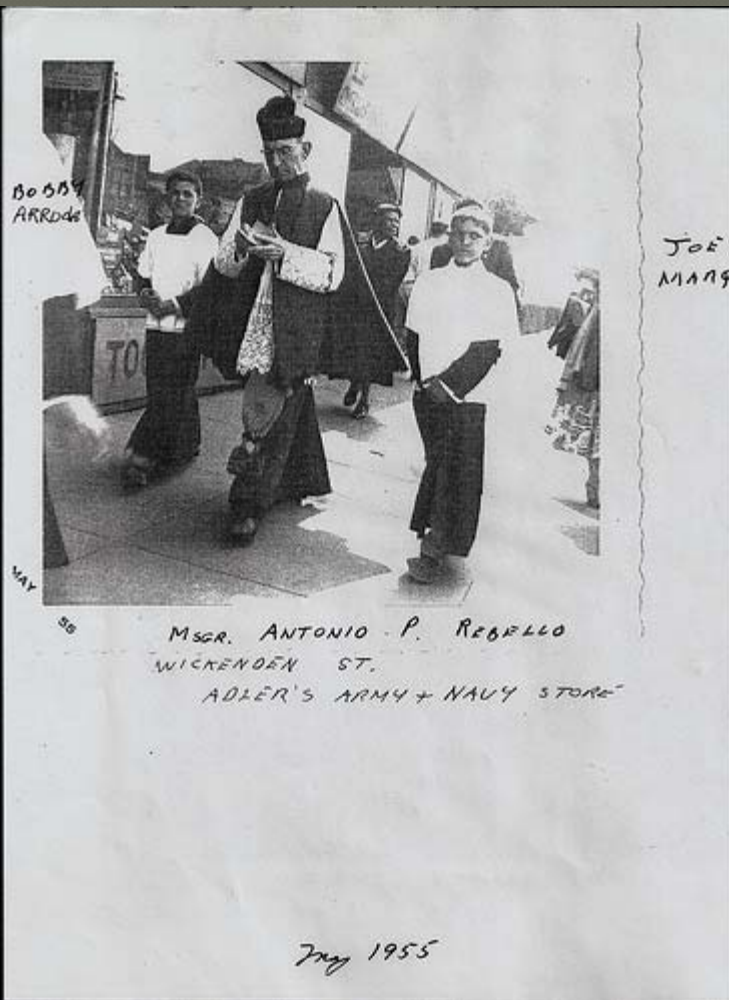
243 WICKENDEN

HENRY SILVA

JOHN



1954



1960-1970

•Before the construction of I-195, Wickenden still began at 440 South Main. In this western section, there were many vacant buildings, with occupied structures including:

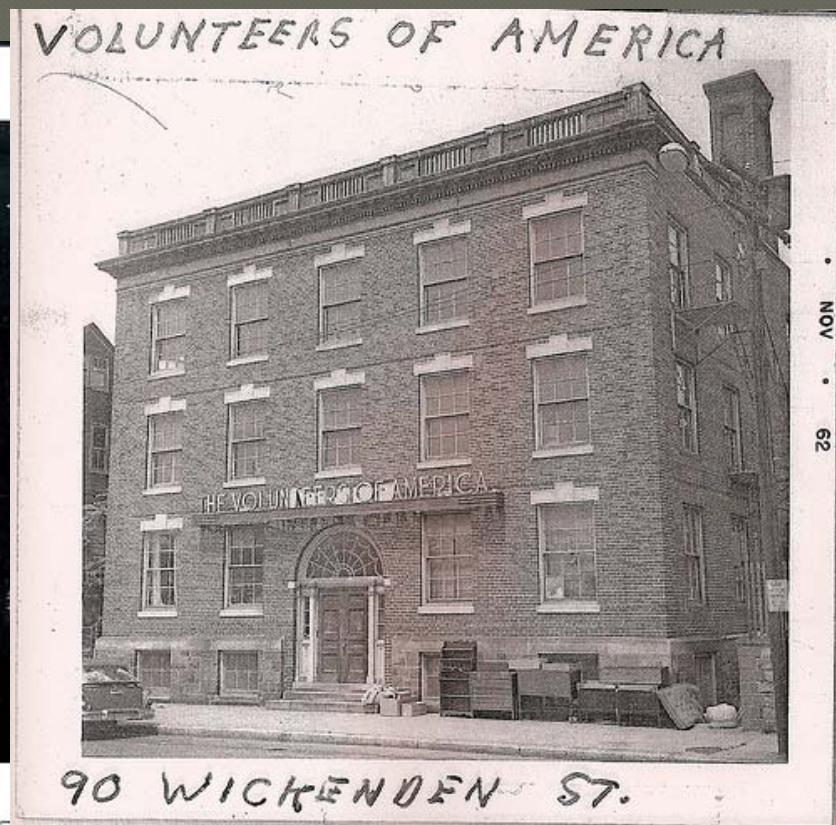
- Antiques Unlimited (4)
- Lopez Funeral Director (14)
- Curiosity Shop (22)
- Volunteers of America (90)
- Fred's Super Service Gas Station (124)

•The 1960s saw the impact of gentrification and urban renewal, as the Providence Redevelopment Agency condemned structures along Wickenden Street, although a block between Wickenden, Ives, and Schofield was reserved for residential use. Tockwotton Park (a portion just before East St. and then another at 564) was heavily reduced when Fox Point (now Vartan Gregorian) Elementary was built. The types of shops indicate a shift away from those providing goods or services to residents to specialty stores (including hardware stores possibly targeting renovators) and small cafes.

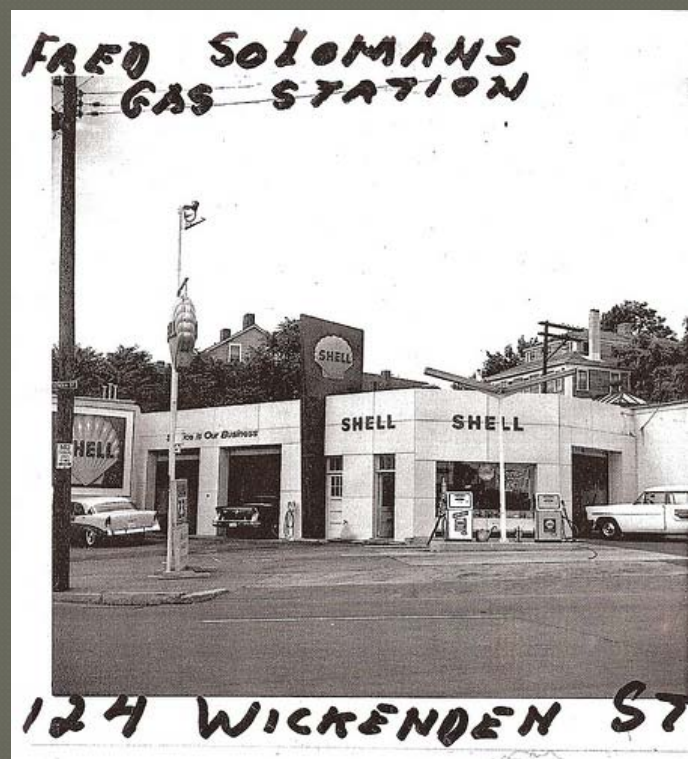
•To the east of Benefit Street:

- Tom's Lunch (140)
- New England Supply Co. (158)
- East Side Hardware Co. (166)
- Adler's Army & Navy Store (173)
- Fox Point Hardware Co. (175)
- Bea's Salvage Shop (185)
- Dudley Hardware Co. Inc. (200); United Church of the First-Born (243)
- Holy Rosary Church social room (210)
- Coelho's Market (228)
- East Side Bar (218), Ring Side Spa (240), H and J Tap Bar (244), Bompa's Tap (258), Mello's Tap (302)
- International Longshoremen's Association Local No. 1684 (328)
- Moynihan funeral director (366)
- Shaheen's Market (395)
- Mario's Appliance (424)
- First Ward Democratic Club (444)
- Fox Point Elementary School (455)
- City Bath No. 5 (511)
- Fox Point Post No. 89—American Legion (550)

Although a majority of the population still had Portuguese last names, new residents were beginning to appear along Wickenden and many of the businesses and organizations that had catered to the older communities went elsewhere.



Ray's Liquors in background, Eddie Miranda (left), Frank "Happy" Conroy. In front of Louie's Tap on the corner of Wickenden and Brook Streets, 1960. Louie's Tap was owned by Louie Faira. Before Louie it was Sullivan's and it was mostly frequented by the Irish.



1970-1980

•By 1971 (as construction on I-195 continued), Wickenden Street began at 420 South Main. Few important structures remained on the street west of Benefit:

- Fred's Super Service Gas Station (124)
- Some continuity continued east of Benefit Street:
 - New England Supply Co. (158)
 - Adler's Army & Navy Store (173)
 - Fox Point Hardware Co. (175)
 - Dudley Hardware Co. (200)
 - Coelho's Market (228)
 - Manny Almeida's Ringside Lounge (244)
 - International Longshoremens's Association Local No. 1684 (328)
 - Moynihan funeral director (366)
 - Costa fish market (389)
 - Mike & Son Shoe Repairs (416)
 - First Ward Democratic Club (434)
 - Fox Point Elementary School (455)
 - Portuguese Club (550)
- Newer tenants of note:
 - Custy's barber (270)
 - Fox Point Health Center (409)
 - Jerry's Bakery (460)
 - Providence Public Library, Fox Point Branch (511)—in the old city baths
 - Associacao Caboverdiana Santo Antonio Inc.
- Tockwotton Park by this point had completely disappeared from the area around East Street, although the Tockwotton Park down at 565 had the Paul J. Cabral swimming pool.
- The Portuguese Club and the Associacao Caboverdiana reflect a population that was still largely lusophone, although newcomers are evident and the shift from community-focused shops to those catering to East Side and College Hill consumers is apparent.



Adler's
DESIGN CENTER
and HARDWARE

90
years old
& still selling
almost
everything.

circa 1970ish

173 WICKENDEN PROVIDENCE 401 421-5157 M-F 7:30-6PM SAT 8-5PM www.adlersri.com



Costa's Fish market. 389 Wickenden Street. This was Pasquale Romano's Fish Market. Feb. 10, 1979. Providence Journal Photo.

1985



- Adler Brothers Inc. (173)
- Fox Point Hardware Co. (175)
- Dudley Hardware Co. (200)
- Round Again Records (207)
- The Cat's Pajamas (241)
- Manny Almeida's Ringside Lounge (244)
- Custy's Barber Shop (270)
- Babe's Tap (302), Jose's Bar (320)
- Golden Sheaf Nature Foods (382)
- Costa Fish Market (389)

1980-1990

•By 1980, Benefit Street was the official starting point for Wickenden. The impact of gentrification and the associated raise in land and property values could be fully seen, with cleverly named art galleries, antique stores, specialty health food shops, and small cafes overtaking the older family businesses. By the late 1980s, locals were lamenting the loss of familiar shops and community anchors. Some continuity could be seen in the hardware stores at least and a few organizations tucked in between newer businesses. The Fox Point Community Organization at 424 was organized in response to the changes in the neighborhood, but the character of Wickenden was irrevocably altered as houses and businesses were demolished to improve traffic flow.

- Faria's Sweet Bread Bakery (395)
- United Rubber Cork, Linoleum, and Plastic Workers (409)
- Fox Point Community Organization (424)
- Fox Point Elementary School (455)
- Fox Point Health Center (550)
- Tockwotton Park and Paul J. Cabral Swimming Pool (565)
- Foxpoint Manor Apartments (575)
- Associacao Caboverdiana Santo Antonio Inc. (673)



- Adler Brothers Inc., Adler's Army & Navy Store, Adler's Fox Point Hardware (173)
- Dudley Hardware (200)
- Coffee Exchange (214, later 207)
- Cat's Pajamas (227)
- Taj Mahal Indian cuisine (230)
- Tokyo Restaurant (231)
- Round Again Records (278)
- Babe's Tap tavern (302)
- Golden Sheaf (382)
- Aqua-Life Aquarium (385)
- Costa's Fish market (389)
- Daily Bread Bakery Inc. (395)
- Fox Point (later Vartan Gregorian) Elementary School (255)
- Cardoso Liquors (464)
- Fox Point Health Center (550)
- Tockwotton Park and Paul J. Cabral Swimming Pool (565)
- Foxpoint Manor Apartments (575)
- Associacao Caboverdiana Santo Antonio Inc. (673)

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