

Research and Methodology:

In trying to prove or disprove claims made that many of the buildings and homes in Fox Point had Jewish owners, I set out on a variety of paths. In exploring this issue I encountered considerable anecdotal evidence to the contrary. Maxine Goldin at the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society remarked “Jews didn’t own in Fox Point... maybe if you’re talking about South Providence.” Others responded with statements such as “that’s news to me.” Though helpful in guiding my research, these statements did little to corroborate the information already in question.

The evidence I subsequently found is spotty, however, it suggests that Jews did not, in fact, own considerable tracts in Fox Point. By ‘spotty,’ I mean not only is the information sparse, but in determining someone’s religion, I had to do guesswork on names that “sound Jewish.” Though sometimes accurate, it is very far from foolproof. I have requested membership records from local synagogues, in an effort to compare names listed, and while I have not yet heard back, I feel the likelihood of procuring such sensitive information is slim.

In speaking with members of the Providence Preservation Society (PPS), they seem to feel that considerable Jewish land ownership would be mentioned in the 1986 Providence Citywide Survey of Historic Resources (Issued by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission). No such mention is made in the report. Despite this absence, I have listed below and the street-by-street information available through the PPS library. Need to note – are these based on deeds of ownership? What is the info being tracked? Are these all the Fox Point streets available in the Gowdey online collection or a selection? Could use finer analysis by time period, block or by type of property (e.g., multifamily vs. single family homes). Also compare to city directory.

From the Providence Preservation Society Records:

7 Arnold Street:

1955: Read Shaw

1956: Sold to Clifford and Eleanor Monahon

8 Arnold St.:

1920: Juiseppe DePietro

10 Arnold:

1951: Harvey Reynolds

1959: Barbara Noyes

1962: Noyes sells to Frederick G. Towle II and wife, Elizabeth

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Oral History
Jewish Real Estate in Fox Point
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12 Arnold:

1949: Mary and Angeline Rose, Cecelia Fernandez

23 Arnold Street:

1939: Castlebury Estate

25 Arnold Street:

1953: Jacintho M. Frances and Daniel A DeMello

26-28 Arnold Street:

1947: Otto and Hildegard Kneisel

1951: Stuart Brown

33 Arnold Street:

1948: James and Hazelle Byers

1956: Dorothy Hess

34 Arnold St:

1951: David and Isabelle Keith

1958: Martha Morrison

1959: Peter and Frances Kilham

85 Arnold St:

1969: Noel and Alice Breault sell to Anthony Stolarz and William Fenner

97 Arnold St:

1951: Victoria Castriotta

134 Brook St.

1937: John Mello

135 Brook St.

1944: Mary J. McCormick sells to Joseph Aleida and Richard Almeida

1963: Joseph and Mary Almeida

1967: Almeidas sell to Charles Field

12 East Transit

1947: Mary C. Martin (widow of Joseph Martin) and Alfred Martin

1962: Alfred Martin and wife, Helen

181 Williams Street:

1951: sold to John Doyle

1962: sold to Miller C. Barney

1964: sold to Helen Kurtz and Marion Kesselring

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185 Williams Street:

Recorded up to 1925, when Desmond Fitzgeralds, Harriet Clarke, Frank Matteson and Sophia Brown help – jointly- the power of sale.

209 Williams Street (Gaspee House):

Since 1930, owned and occupied by the Gaspee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

233 Williams Street:

1946: Effie H. Bacon and Ruth A. Staples

1954: Joseph Gonsalves and wife Caroline

1960: John P. Vargas and Thelma Vargas

1962: Henry A. Lariviere and wife Thelma

1975: Narcisco Maisterra

243 Williams St:

1950: Margaret W. Dick Estate and Ethel Dick

1953: Ethel Dick

1965: Wallace Roberts

247 Williams St.

1951: Hope Genebra

1962: Alan Young

1966: Paul Nelson

265 Williams St.

1944: Frank and Sarah Brazil

1952: Senherinha Brazil

66 Williams

1961: Washington Irving

1962: Washington Irving quits claims to Frances Irving

88 Williams

1949: William Hastings

92 Williams:

1932: John Well (and through, as of 1963)

102 Williams:

1954: Laura Jastram (through 1968)

172 Williams:

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1941: RI Hospital Trust Company

218 Williams:

1958: Elizabeth Maguire and Thomas Maloney

1959: Anthony and Ruth Masciarotte (also taxed, Eleanor Monahan and Aileen Lemon)

25 Williams:

1955: LaBelle

87 Williams:

1933: Ernest Metcalf (as of 1963)

88 Williams:

1949: William Hastings

91 Williams:

1961: Russell Knight (given to him for life)

140 Wickenden

1943: Property of Francis Simon

1957: Anthony F, George Simon and Anna L. Sullivan Taxed for property

166 Wickenden St.

1936 Frank C. Aldrich and wife Edythe

1968: Carl and Betty Adler, and Irving and Eleanor Adler

1969: Adlers sell to Erwin Deimes Jr. and wife Mercedes

174 Wickenden

1935: Mabel Turner

334 Wickenden

1943: Anthony Mendes leaves estate to wife and Eliza and children

1947: Part of estate sold to Antonio Brito Sousa and wife Maria

1968: Brito Sousa and wife sell to Edward S. Arnold

536 Wickenden

1945: John Gonsalves