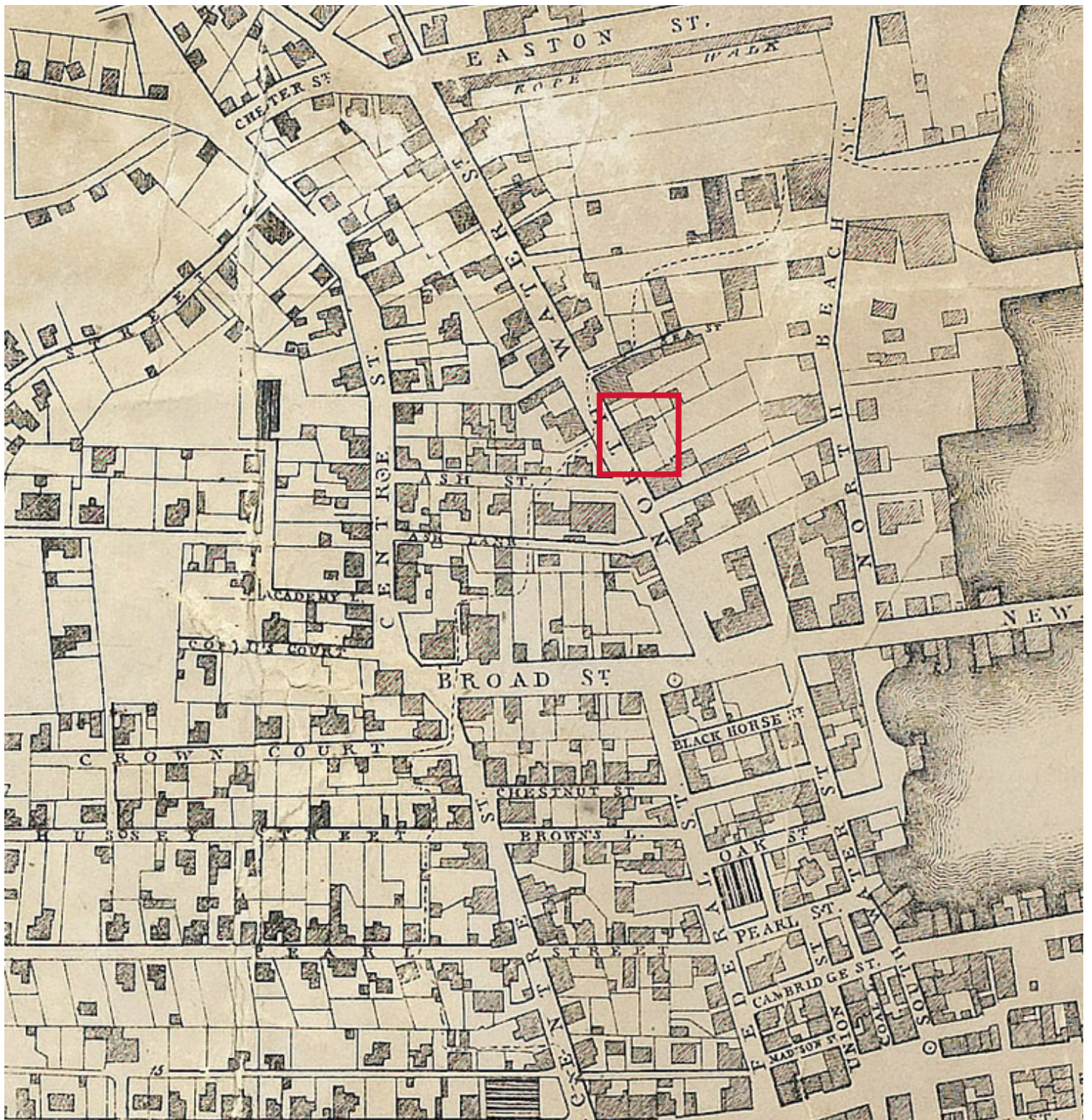


11 North Water Street

NANTUCKET

A House History





Coffin Map detail, 1834

A Brief History

11 North Water Street



11 North Water Street at left

In 1842, James Athearn, merchant, sold to Thomas A. Gardner (1804– 94), master mariner, a dwelling house next door to Aaron Mitchell’s house on the east corner of Sea Street and North Water Street for \$3,500. Four years later, the Great Fire of 1846 completely destroyed both the Gardner and Mitchell houses. The following year, Gardner sold his empty lot to Philander Fisher (1805–73) for \$1,000.

Fisher, a shipwright who built the present house in 1847, was also a purveyor of groceries, provisions, and wooden wares. However, the general economy of Nantucket declined as whaling declined, and hundreds of Nantucket men and their families left the island for the fortunes promised in California. Fisher, his wife, Mahala, and daughter left the island for San Francisco in December 1852 on the steamer *Star of the West*. He sold their North Water Street residence for \$2,500 to Lewis Wendel (d. 1878) earlier that month.

Lewis H. Wendel (also known as Louis H. Wendell) was a “washashore,” arriving on Nantucket from Stettin, Prussia, in 1833 when the brig *Florida* sank off the southeastern coast of the island. In a letter to the editor of the *Inquirer*, Wendel described a harrowing experience that was followed by the inordinate kindnesses of Nantucketers who took him in. “I was left alone in a land of strangers, not one person with whom I could speak my mother tongue.” He boarded with John Beebe and family and was treated so kindly that he stayed until October of the following year. His deed for the 11 North Water Street property describes him as a “carman” (a driver of a carriage), but he eventually became involved in raising capital for investments in ships. In recognition of his country of origin, he flew the Prussian flag in his North Water Street garden in honor of Prince Bismarck’s birthday. His 1878 obituary states he “will be kindly remembered by all who knew him. He has ever been noted for his untiring industry and sterling integrity.”

FOR SALE.
THE good schr MINNA (formerly of Brewster,) about 60 tons burthen. She has been put in first rate order, and is well adapted for the fishing business. For particulars; apply to
DAVID JOY,
ORED B. SWAIN,
4mo 9th or **PHILANDER FISHER.**

Inquirer advertisement for Fisher's schooner Minna, April 9, 1842



Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Wendel



View from North Church Tower with 11 North Water Street (center), c. 1880s



View from North Church Tower with 11 North Water Street (center right), c. 1890s

Wendel's wife, Eunice, was an entrepreneur as well. As a serious horticulturist, she regularly won prizes at the annual Agricultural Fair for "best collection of house plants" and she displayed her plant collection at 11 North Water Street to the public.

Following Wendel's death, George W. Allen purchased the property in September of 1880 for \$950 and sold it the following month for \$1,600 to Laura Dutro. In his deed to Dutro, Allen established a right of way on the 11 North Water Street property:

"Reserving, however, to myself and my heirs . . . a right of way to pass both on foot and with teams to and from Sea Street, and to and from my own land across the land hereby conveyed. Said right of way to be a continuation of the present driveway leading from Sea Street to the land hereby conveyed and to be used only by the occupants of the two estates."

Laura Dutro was the wife of Thomas C. Dutro (d. 1886), president of the St. Louis Car Wheel Company. The Dutros and their four children visited during the summer of 1882, although the property was rented between 1883 and 1884 and placed on the market.

By 1884, Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Sanborn purchased the home. Sanborn was a St. Louis physician who became a summer resident while studying and practicing medicine in Boston until his sudden death in 1894. His widow, Emily H. Sanborn (d. 1913), owned the property until 1912 when she sold it to Anna M. Mooers for "one dollar and other valuable considerations."

Anna M. Mooers (b. 1859) and George E. Mooers (1855–1919) were married in 1881. She was the daughter of Nantucketers Thomas Ray and Charlotte Swazey Ray. Her husband was an auctioneer and merchant, selling furniture, mattresses, and bedsprings.



Anna M. Mooers, c. 1881



THE PARKER HOUSE
11 NORTH WATER STREET
Open for the season
Mrs. Pearl Parker, Prop.

Pearl Parker by Louis Davidson, c. 1950s
Inset: Inquirer and Mirror advertisement for Parker House, May 10, 1924

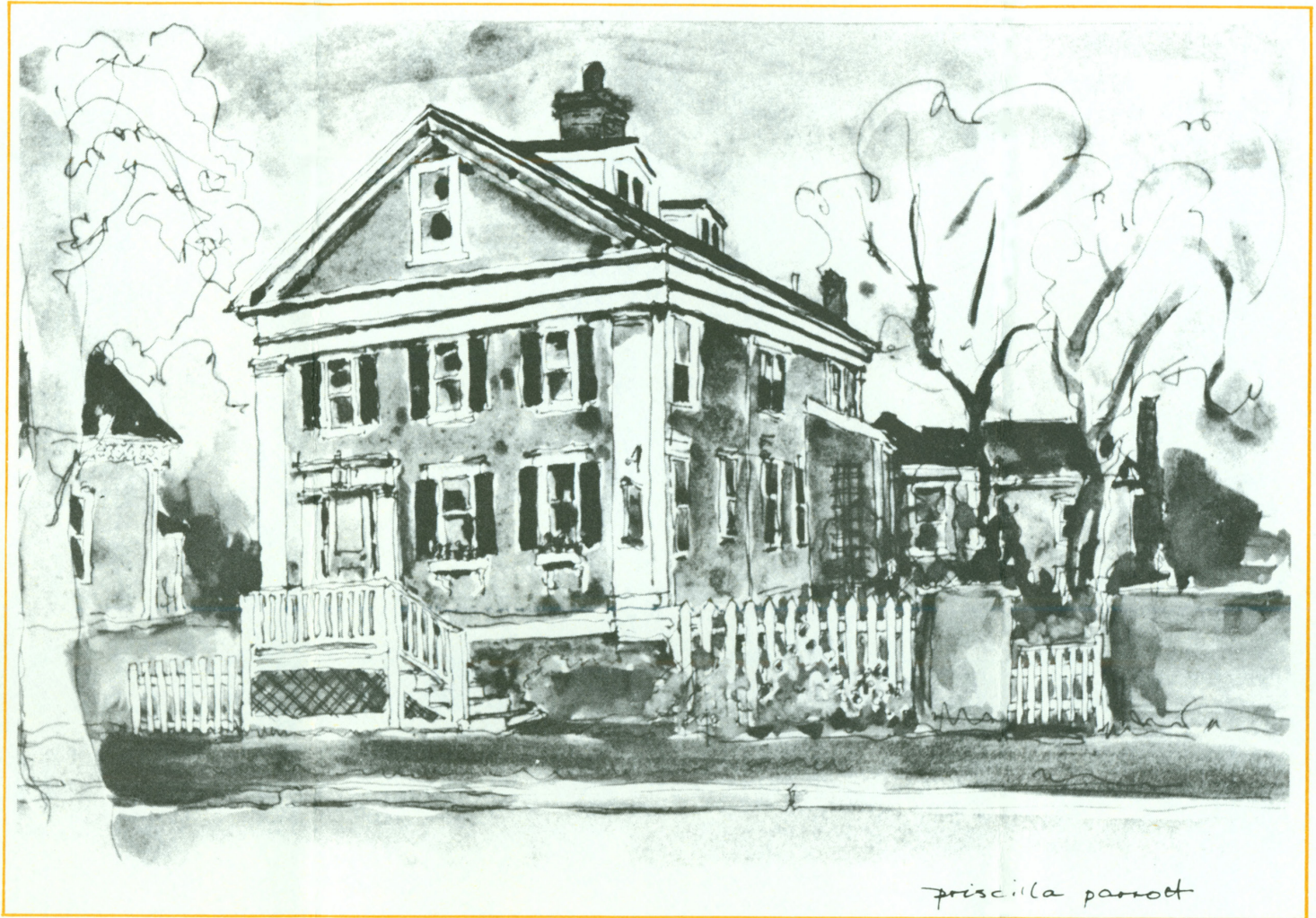
In 1923, Anna Mooers sold the 11 North Water Street property to Eudora Pearl Parker. Eudora Pearl Blount (1886–1962) married Walter S. Parker (d. 1970) on December 22, 1909. Originally from Chatham, Massachusetts, she had relatives on Nantucket whom she often visited. In 1923, she purchased the property at 11 North Water Street and operated it as the Parker House for more than a decade.

In 1941, the Nantucket Institution for Savings sold the property to Jessie H. Stetson, with the right of way in place, and the inn became known as the Stetson House. After her death in 1974, several heirs sold portions of the property to her husband, Arthur A. Stetson, who, having divided the lot, in 1978 sold the property to Benoit W. and Sigrid E. Garneau for \$85,000.

It appears the Garneaus used the structure as their home and also ran it as a guest house that they named the Brass Lantern. In 1988 it was sold to 31 India Associates LLC and in 2000, the Brass Lantern LLC acquired the property. [NPT](#)

11 NORTH WATER STREET: OWNERS

Thomas A. Gardner, master mariner (Great Fire 1846)	1842–47
Philander Fisher, shipwright	1847–52
Aaron Mitchell to Philander Fisher	1848
Louis H. Wendell, Carman	1852–80
George W. Allen	1880–80
James E. Stanton	1880–81
Laura Dutro	1881–84
Emily H. Sanborn	1884–1912
Anna M. Mooers	1912–23
Eudora Pearl Parker	1923–28
Alcon Chadwick, N. Inst. Savings	1937
Jessie H. Stetson	1941
Arthur A. Stetson	1978
Benoit W. Garneau	1978–88
31 India Associates Limited Partnership	1988
Brass Lantern LLC	2000



Sketch of 11 North Water Street

Prepared by Christine Harding
NANTUCKET PRESERVATION TRUST
February 2015

Historic images courtesy of the Nantucket Historical Association

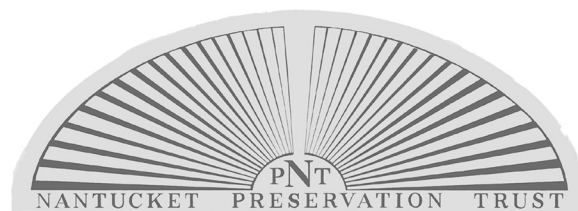


11 North Water Street with neighboring house

NANTUCKET PRESERVATION TRUST

*Advocates, Educates, and Celebrates the Preservation of
Nantucket's Historic Architecture*

*T*his brief history is an important contribution to the island's architectural record. Documentation is one of the ways the Nantucket Preservation Trust celebrates the more than 2,400 historic homes, farms, and workplaces that contributed to the island's designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1966. By providing owners of historic houses, island residents, schoolchildren, and visitors a broad spectrum of programs and projects, we encourage the preservation of irreplaceable structures, architectural features, and cultural landscapes. Lectures, walking tours, house markers, special events, and publications—including the house histories and neighborhood histories—define our unique work on Nantucket. We hope you enjoy the history of this house, its past owners, and its place in Nantucket's remarkable architectural heritage.

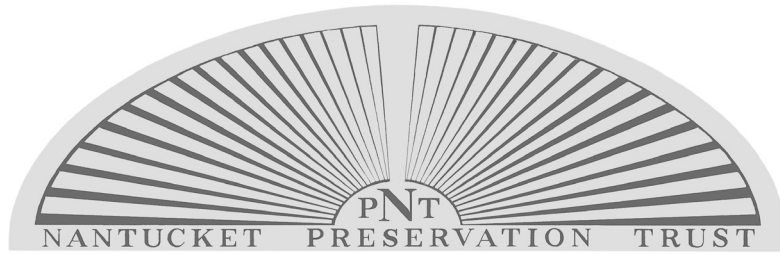


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Post Office Box 158 • Nantucket, MA 02554

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