



Newport
Historical Society
History Starts Here

10 Equality Park West



10 Equality Park West, northwest view from Broadway at Gould Street. Ca. 1880. P2525. Collection of the *Newport Historical Society*.

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Sources Consulted:

1876 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society
1883 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society
1893 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society
1907 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society
1921 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society
1883 -1921 *Newport City Directories*, Newport Historical Society
Historic Building Data Rhode Island Survey, 1975, Newport Historical Society
Land Evidence, Newport City Hall
Newport Historical Society object & photograph collection
Tax Assessor Records, Newport City Hall
West Broadway Neighborhood, Newport RI. Statewide Historical Preservation. Rhode Island
Historical Preservation Report, 1977

Research Summary

10 Equality Park West (Plat 14, Lot 124) ca. 1879 is a late Victorian residence with an intersecting gabled roof and framed entrance porch. It holds a prominent position in the streetscape facing Equality Park, on the corner of Gould Street. The house was constructed for Matilda Barnes and is attributed to Newport architect and builder John Dixon Johnston [J. D. Johnston].

Equality Park West was originally called Tanner Street, which followed the course of a river that originated from Pond Street and serviced the waste the tanneries located in the area.

10 Equality Park West would come to be built on what was part of a large tract of undeveloped land between Pond Avenue and Gould Street belonging to Isaac Gould, a merchant-tailor whose shop was south of Brick Market in Washington Square. By 1850 several small businesses had opened in the area, predominately on Broadway. Grocer Israel Lake owned the structure at the corner of Broadway and what would become known as Equality Park West. This corner, diagonally across the park from #10 Equality Park West, was known as "Lake's Corner." In 1872 the *Newport Mercury* publicized Newport's need for modest housing for the growing population of workers as well as the idea of speculative building. In response, in 1873 developers constructed eight small houses built to rent on Pond Avenue. Between 1870 and 1883 fifty more houses and buildings were constructed. By 1883 Tanner Street was renamed West Broadway and the neighborhood began to fill with buildings. During this time the address for 10 Equality Park West

was 106 West Broadway, it would then change to 110 West Broadway before becoming 10 Equality Park West in the 20th century.

10 Equality Park West faces Equality Park (est. 1865), the site on which a long boat of the British sloop *Liberty* were burned on July 19, 1769 by the citizens of Newport. This event is considered the first overt act of violence against Great Britain in the lead up to the American Revolution.

10 Equality Park West passed through the hands of one family from 1876 – 2009. Matilda Barnes, the wife of Burrill Barnes, was born in 1824 and died in 1903 (Island Cemetery, RI Database). She passed the house to Emma Barnes Langley, who bequeathed the house to her granddaughter Gladys Ward. The house would remain in the Ward family until 2009.

Property Details:

- 1876** No structure. The empty lot belongs to D. J. Gould (1876 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society).
- 1883** A structure belonging to Matilda Barnes is located at 106 West Broadway, subsequently 10 Equality Park West (1883 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society). Matilda Barnes is listed at 106 Broadway in the 1883 *Newport City Directory*.
- 1893** A structure belonging to Matilda Barnes is located at 106 West Broadway, subsequently 10 Equality Park West (1893 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society).
- 1906** The house at 10 Equality Park West was assessed at \$3,400 (Tax Assessor Records, Newport City Hall).
- 1907** A structure belonging to Emma Langley is located at 106 West Broadway, subsequently 10 Equality Park West (1907 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society). Emma Langley is listed at 106 Broadway in the 1907 *Newport City Directory*.
- 1921** A structure belonging to Emma Langley is located at 1110 West Broadway, subsequently 10 Equality Park West (1921 *Newport City Atlas*, Newport Historical Society). Emma Langley is listed at 110 Broadway in the 1907 *Newport City Directory*.
- 1933** Emma Langley dies February 20, 1933. The house is willed to Gladys I. Ward (Tax Assessor Records, Newport City Hall).
- 1938** The house is willed to Gladys I. Ward (Tax Assessor Records, Newport City Hall).
- 1940** 13 June 1940 deed to Annie E. Snyder, Harry A. Ward and Gladys I. Ward (Land Evidence 146:73, 75).

- 1953** Harry Ward dies March 6, 1953. April 2, 1953 a deed is recorded for Gladys I. Ward and Henry B. Ward as joint tenants (Land Evidence 181:272).
- 1972** Gladys I. Ward dies November 30, 1972.
- 2006** April 19, 2006 a deed is recorded for Henry Burrill Ward and Barbara G. Ward, trustees (Land Evidence 1739:300).
- 2009** October 21, 2009 a deed is recorded for Diedre S. Iannone (Land Evidence 2048:107).



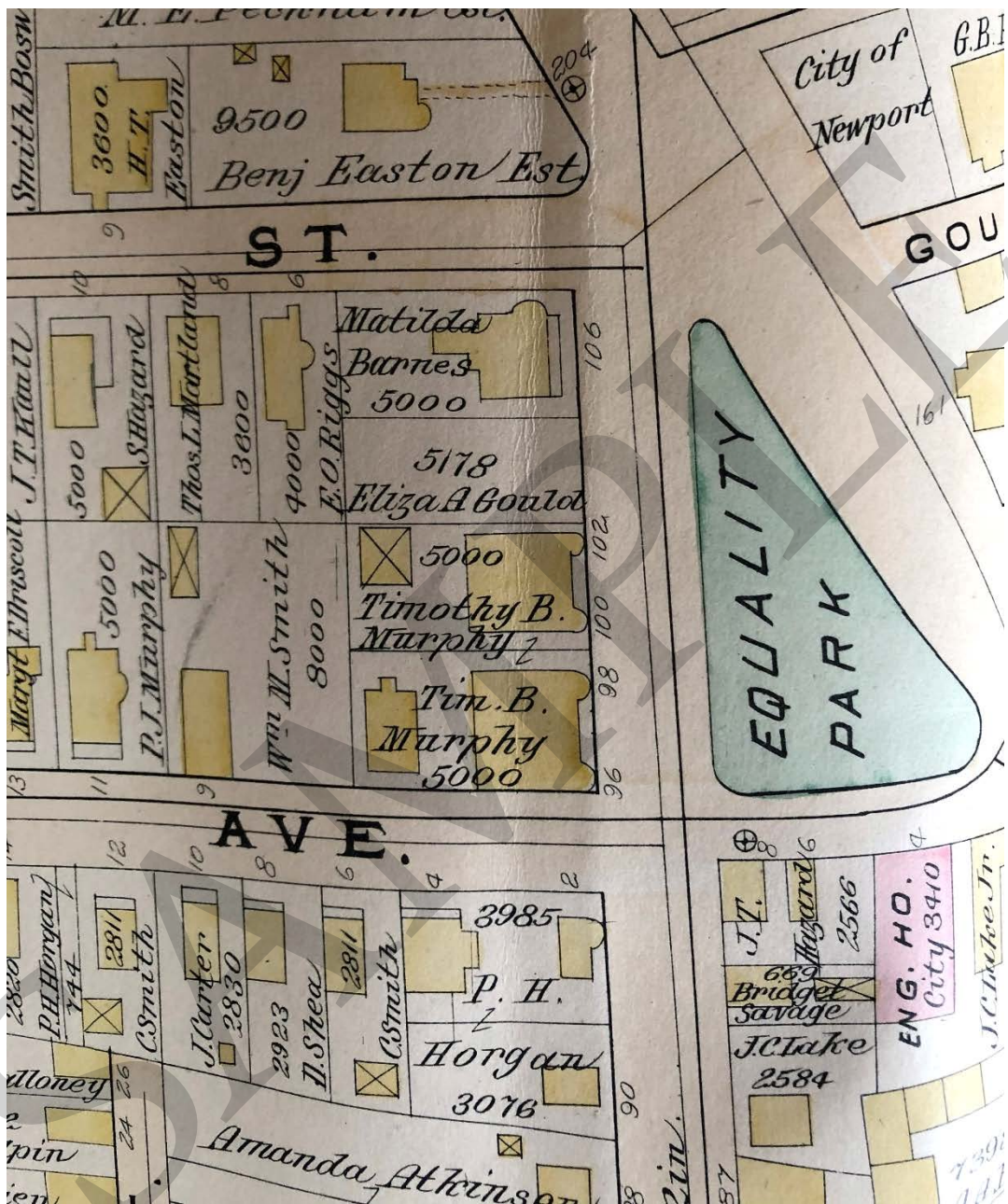
View of Equality Park taken from Broadway looking west towards 10 Equality Park West is just visible in the background. 1945. P9138. Collection of the *Newport Historical Society*.



Detail from the 1876 Newport City Atlas showing the Gould property.



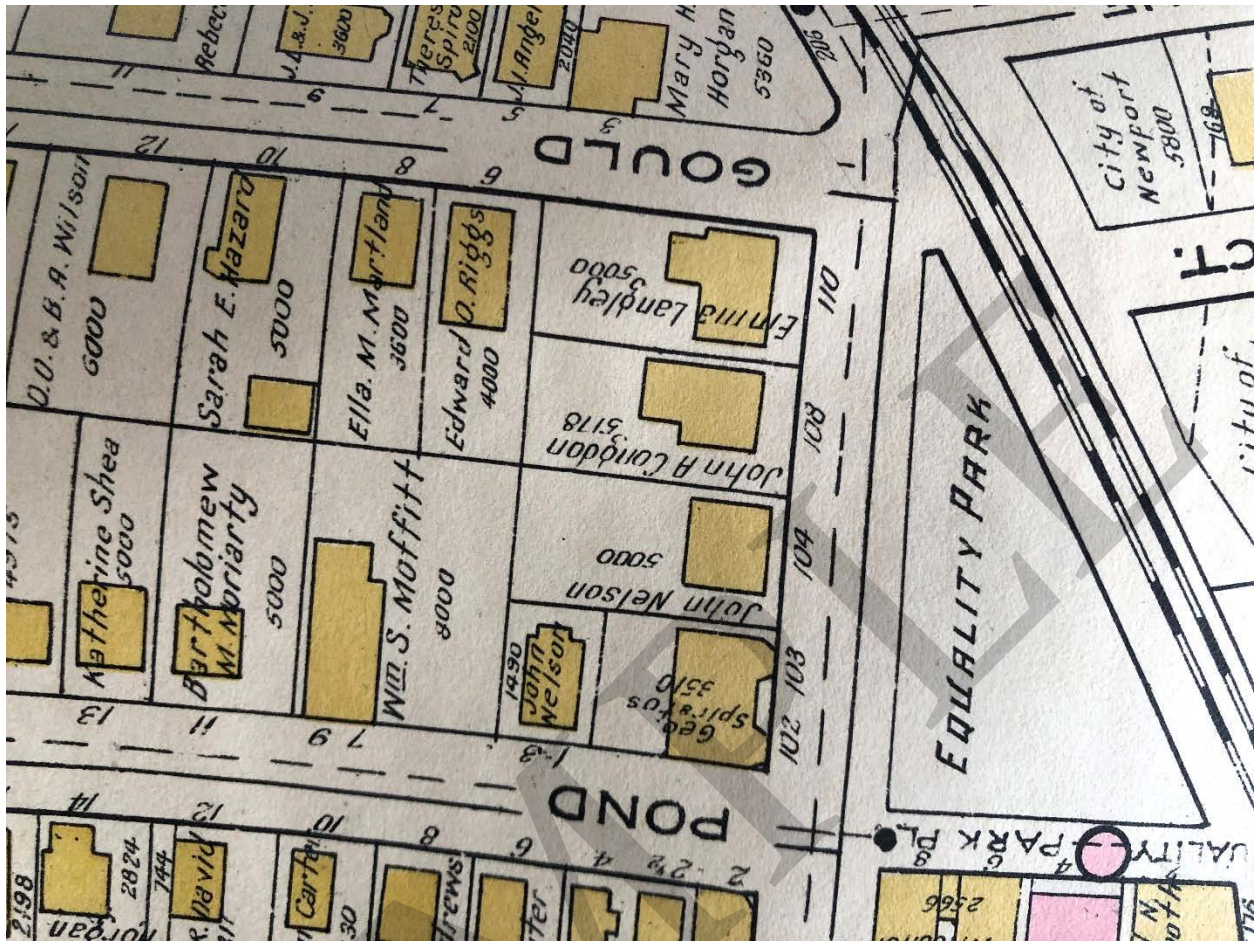
Detail from the 1883 Newport City Atlas showing the Barnes structure at 106 West Broadway.



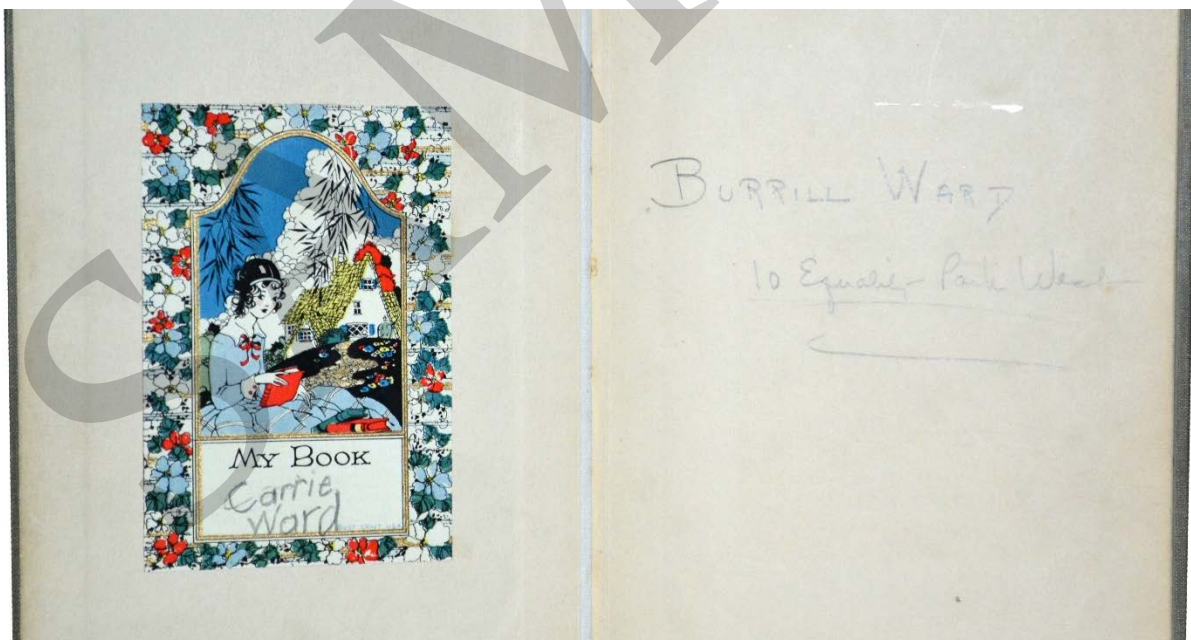
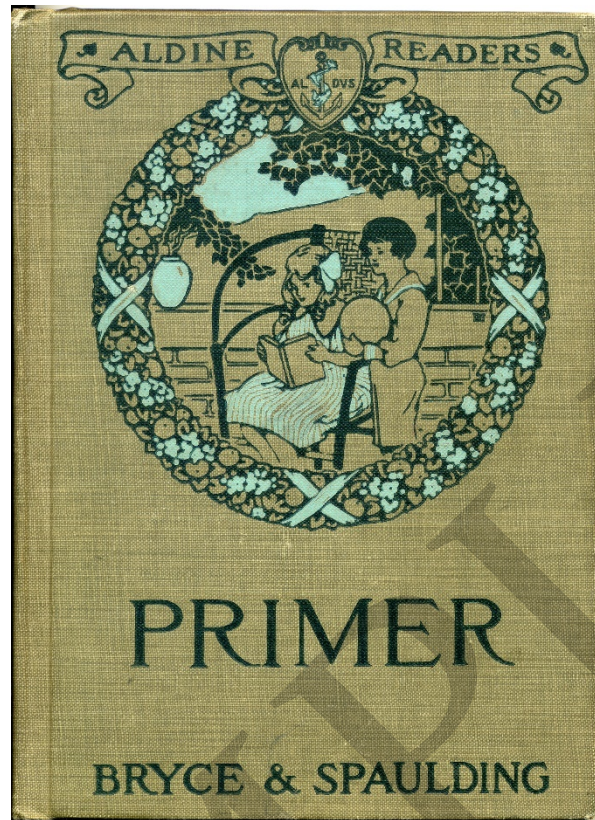
Detail from the 1893 Newport City Atlas showing the showing the Barnes structure at 106 West Broadway.



Detail from the 1907 *Newport City Atlas* showing the showing the Langley structure at 106 West Broadway.



Detail from the 1921 Newport City Atlas showing the showing the Langley structure at 110 West Broadway.



Aldine Readers Primer, revised edition 1916. Cover and inside cover. Note the name “Carrie Ward” on the book plate and the inscription for “Burrill Ward, 10 Equality Park West.” 2014.101. Collection of the *Newport Historical Society*.