

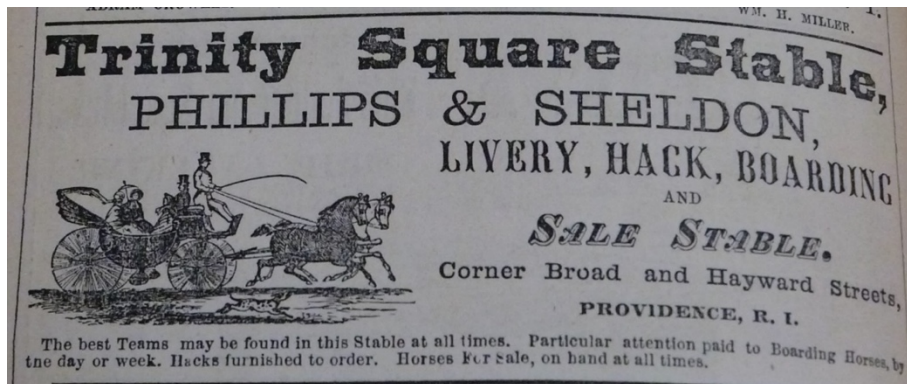
404 Broad Street
The Building and Its Neighborhood
1636 - 2020

The Elmwood/Trinity Square area of Providence was sold by the Narragansett Indians to Roger Williams in 1636, although by the 1650s it was privately owned and slowly becoming farm land. Broad Street was originally part of the Pequot Path, an Indian Trail. The area was incorporated into Cranston in 1774 and remained part of that town until 1868. The southward expansion of Providence in the mid 1800s, including a growing Irish population, was a major factor in the return of the area to Providence.

The period between 1868 and 1910, when the Trinity Square Stable was built and flourished, was also the time of greatest growth and urbanization of the area. This was facilitated by improvements of public transportation beginning with horse care lines; and the development of heavy industry. Upper and middle-class Yankees moved into the area: wholesalers, retailers, investment brokers, managers, as well as craftsmen, those in the building trades, and shopkeepers. To serve them, Grace Cemetery was created in the 1840s, and Trinity United Methodist Church was built in 1864-65, All Saints' (Episcopal) Memorial Church in 1869-72, and Calvary Baptist Church in 1905-07.

Trinity Square Stable

The property, originally belonging to the heirs of the Hon. James Fenner, was surveyed and platted by Atwater and Schubarth on August 27, 1846. The four lots, 89-92, were conveyed by deed from Theodore G. Eiswald to Lewis A. Phillips on October 28, 1869 and sold at auction to the highest bidder, William J. Sheldon on March 1, 1870 for \$12,450. There is no extant



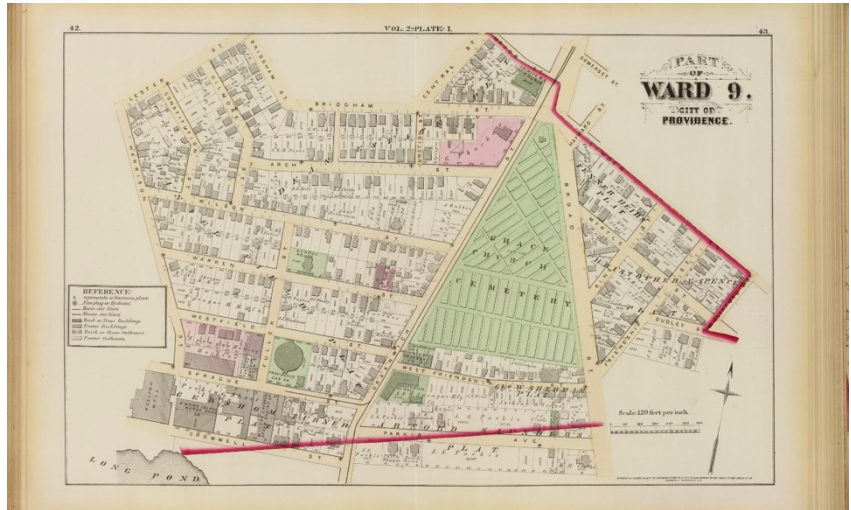
building permit, but the Trinity Square Stable, operated by Mr. Lewis A. Phillips and Mr. William J. Sheldon, opened for business in 1870, with this advertisement in the 1870 Providence Business Directory displaying their

offerings.

In the early years, the building was variously described as being at the corner of Broad and Hayward, Broad and the corner of Hayward, on Trinity Square, and at 74 Hayward.

This 1875 plat map shows the footprint of the building.

Phillips and Sheldon operated the business through 1875. After a brief hiatus when it was under the proprietorship of A.S. Waterman, Mr. Sheldon returned in 1879 and the business remained in his ownership until 1892 when he sold the property to Sigmund and Benedict Lederer.



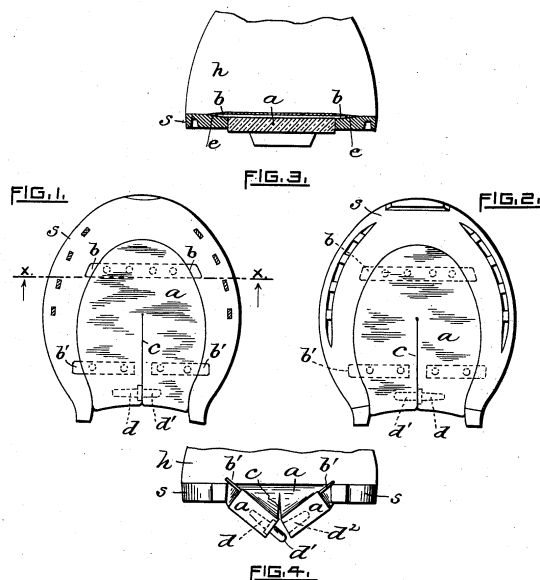
Charles Ellis took over the business in 1892 and by June 14, 1904 had received a patent for an improved footpad for horses. "...an inexpensive hoof-pad possessing at the same time a greater degree of simplicity and efficiency than pads of this class previously produced." This excerpt from the approved patent below shows specifications for the hoof-pad.

No. 762,473.

PATENTED JUNE 14, 1904.

C. A. ELLIS.
HOOF PAD FOR HORSES.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 5, 1903.

NO MODEL.



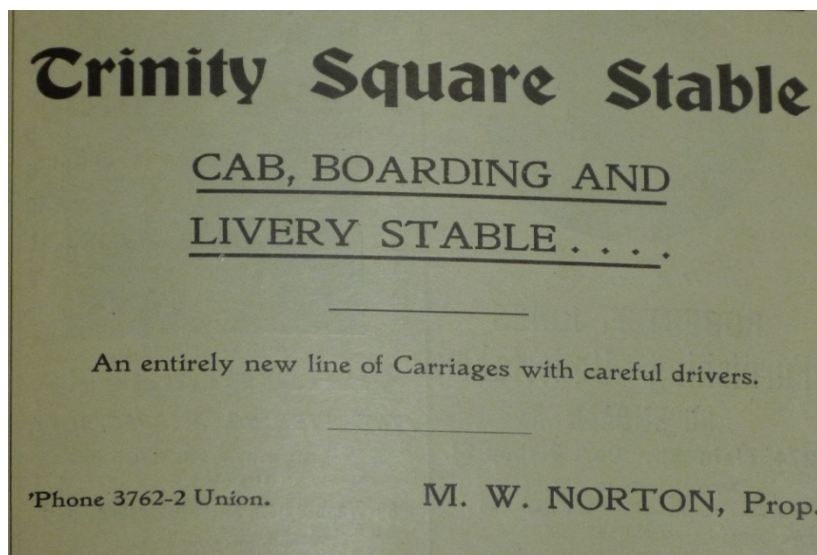
WITNESSES.

P. J. Hannigan
Calvin H. Brown

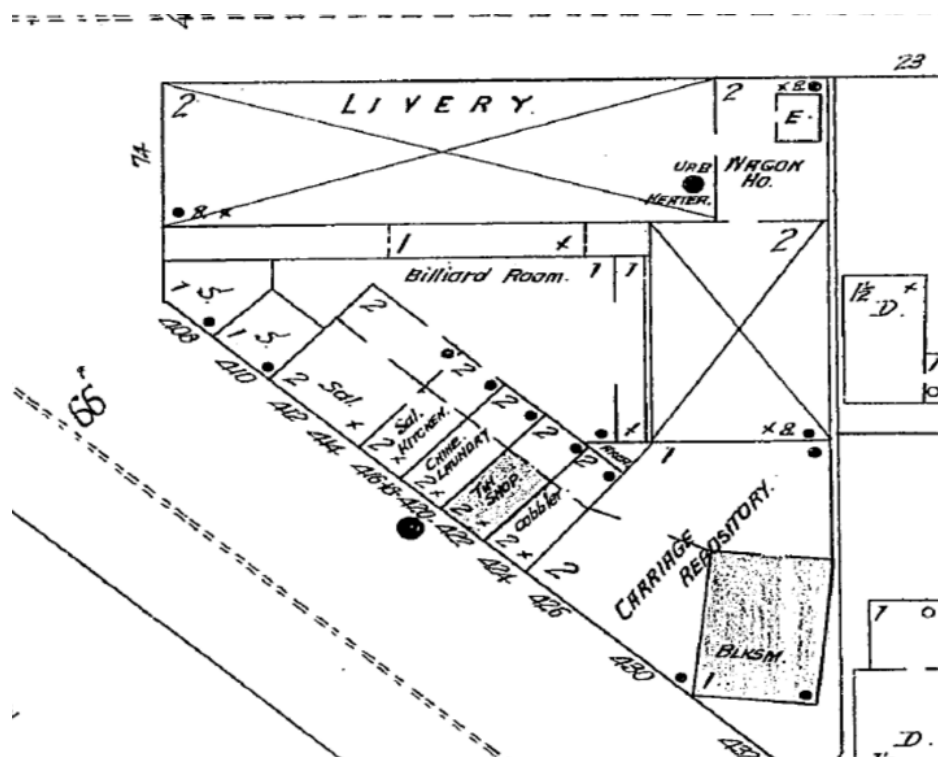
INVENTOR.

Charles A. Ellis.
By Geo. W. Huntington.
Atty.

In 1903, M.W. Norton took over, placing this advertisement in the Providence Business Directory that year. He ran the business through 1909 when N.W. Norton took over.



A close-up of the Sanborn map from 1899-1901 shows a larger building footprint.

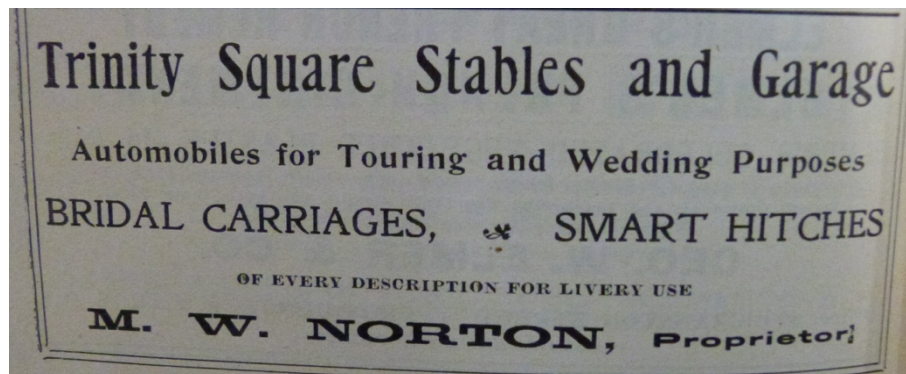


There are no extant photographs of the building, but this aerial photo from 1895 gives a general idea.



The Automobile Era

During the early 1900s, the automobile was displacing horses so that by 1907, automobiles were part of the business, as seen in the advertisement below.



Always At Your Service!



Call
Union 8122
Or
Union 1265

**We Are
Open Day
and Night---
Call Us!**

**A Phone Call Brings Us
Anywhere—Anytime!**

We make a specialty of towing-in and are equipped to handle any job quickly and efficiently. Because we do specialize on this work, we can serve you at a lower cost than you'll find elsewhere.

If you meet with an accident on the road, phone us. Experienced motorists whom we have taken care of in the past will tell you about our work.

TRINITY SQUARE AUTO STATION

404 BROAD STREET AT TRINITY SQUARE

Between 1910 and 1930, the area continued to grow, stimulated by the introduction of the automobile which allowed people to live further away from downtown as well as other places of employment. The business became known as the Trinity Square Garage with this advertisement being published in the Providence Journal in 1924.

By 1911 the building was occupied by the Tillinghast Auto Company and through the early 1970s the business was automobiles. From 1913 through 1938 the Trinity Square Garage and Auto Service Station sold and serviced cars. From 1939 through 1950 the Elmwood Cab Company was added to the business. During the 1950s the Bryant Manufacturing Company made

automobile seat covers and from then through 1972 the Tornado Precision Engine Exchange and Precision Motor Rebuilders worked on engines.

FOR SALE
TRINITY SQUARE GARAGE
404 Broad Street . . . And
ALL TAXI CABS
Of Elmwood Cab Co.



RARE OPPORTUNITY For
• Cab Operators—New and Used Car Dealers
• Auto or Body Repair Co.
2 Story—50 Car Garage
• Land Area 6300 Sq. Feet Sprinkler and Heating System
OWNER MUST RETIRE
All Offers Will Be Submitted—Broker Co-operation Invited
Exclusive Agent

 **R. B. BULLOCK**

Since **REALTOR** 1925
29 WEYBOSSET ST. JA 1-3360

In more recent years, a variety of businesses have used the property, including an auction barn, an American Legion, a Bank of America and a number of neighborhood retailers.

By 1980, adjacent properties in the south section of Trinity Square were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. These properties were built during the same period and include Grace Church Cemetery, Trinity United Methodist Church, Clifton Hall Duplex and James Potter House.

Today, 404 Broad Street is one of the few late 1800 buildings remaining in Trinity Square and contributes greatly to the area's cogent sense of time and place.