

ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY

KNOWN LOCALLY AS THE "BARNEY STREET CEMETERY", THIS PLAT WAS PURCHASED BY THE DIOCESE OF BOSTON IN APRIL, 1828. THE SITE HAD ON IT A SMALL SCHOOLHOUSE, BUILT IN 1809, AND THIS WAS USED AS THE FIRST CHURCH, DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEPH. TWO ADJOINING LOTS WERE PURCHASED IN 1829 AND 1830 TO COMPRISE THE APPROXIMATE 150 FEET BY 150 FEET AS IT IS TODAY.

A WOODEN "GOTHIC" CHURCH, BUILT IN 1837, STOOD ON THE MT. VERNON STREET CORNER OF BARNEY STREET. POORLY CONSTRUCTED, THIS WAS LACKING SPACE FOR THE GROWING CATHOLIC CONGREGATION. THE FIRST SCHOOLHOUSE/CHURCH WAS REMOVED EARLIER, AND THE SECOND CHURCH BUILDING WAS RAZED IN 1864.

THE IRISH WHO STARTED THIS FIRST PARISH OF RHODE ISLAND ARE BURIED HERE. A SPRING STREET SITE WAS PURCHASED IN 1848, AND A NEW CHURCH WAS BUILT AND DEDICATED IN 1852 TO THE HOLY NAME OF MARY, OUR LADY OF THE ISLE, COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS ST. MARY'S.

A NEW ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1885. THIS CHURCH IS ON BROADWAY, NORTHWEST OF HERE.



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