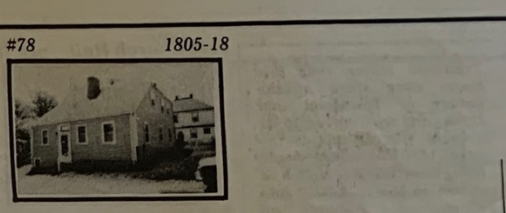
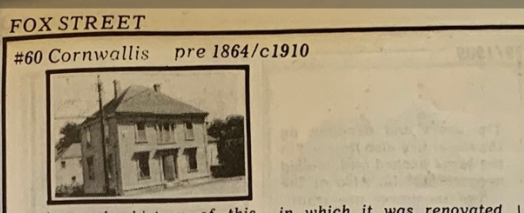
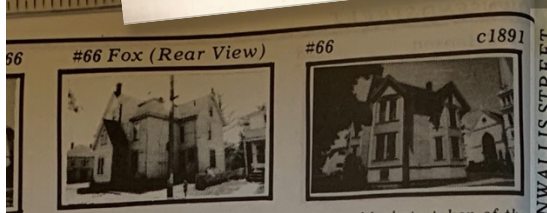
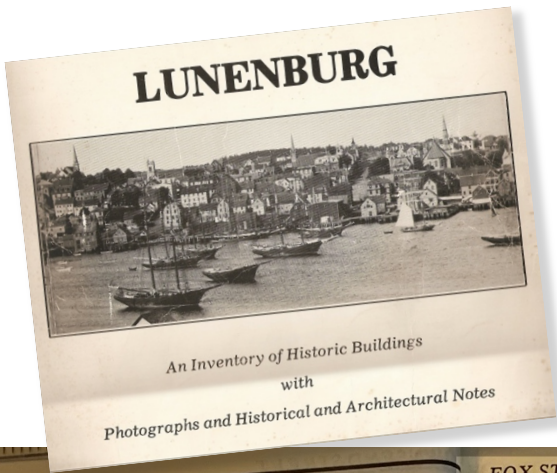


# 60 CORNWALLIS STREET, LUNENBURG

## Historic & Architectural Notes from the 'Lunenburg Inventory of Historic Buildings'



Both the 1879 and 1890 BEV's and an old photo taken of the general area in the mid 1880's show a large, gable roofed, Georgian style house in this location. That old house traces back into the family of George Oxner, described in the deed as a "shingleman". In 1884, the Oxner property was acquired by Charles S. Morash Sr., merchant, and about 1890 the house was removed from the lot. Town Council minutes of 1890 refer to the "old Oxner House" being moved by George W. Mitchell, a contractor, provided that "reasonable skill and care will be used...that it be kept lighted at night...that he give a bond of \$300...(and)...that the said building will be moved off the street within 15 days." Where the old house was moved to is unknown. In its place this large, complex, late Victorian structure was built. It is a tall, 2 1/2 storey building with two gabled bays projecting from its Cornwallis St. facade. One bay is 3 sided and recessed beneath its own bracketed and pedimented gable roof. The other bay is rectangular and is set diagonally in the corner of the house. On the gable end facing Fox St. (see rear view above) there is a pitched roof projection on the side of which is the main door. A similar projection on the opposite gable end (see front view above) is 3 sided and is recessed beneath a bracketed and pedimented gable. On the rear of the house is a large ell which adds to its multi faceted character. The house left the Morash family in 1936, and has since been rented out. While presently in a slightly run down state it is nevertheless still substantially intact and well represents the imposing architecture of the late Victorian period.

The early history of this house is not documented. It is identified on the 1864 Church map as "J. Young" but registered deeds in that name draw a blank. The property was acquired by Sheriff John H. Kaulback and in 1878 was sold to Thomas Schnare, the grandfather of the present owner. Originally, the house was a smaller, gable roofed structure and is shown in that form on the 1879 BEV. By 1890 it had an extended dormer added to it, then, after 1906 but before 1914, a second storey was added and the present day hip roof was put on. To this day the house has remained intact in its renovated form c1910. It displays a wealth of architectural detail uncharacteristic of the period in which it was renovated but which can be understood as perhaps representing something of the earlier character of the house, prior to renovation. It has a strong, balanced facade with a central doorway and regularly placed flanking windows. Above the doorway is an Italianate, triple round headed window with a gracefully curved, moulded hood and a distinctive, central keystone. The ground floor windows and the doorway have prominent bracketed entablatures with scrollwork lintels and the second storey windows are tied to the eaves and fascia by similar brackets. Raised cornerboards and original clapboard siding complete the architecturally intact character of the house.

This interesting house was built between 1805-18 for or by John Lennox, an innkeeper (see also #69 Fox, just across the street). In 1818, he sold it to Henry West, a house carpenter, for 116 pounds, who resold for the same price in 1821 to John Frederick, a cooper. The house stayed in the Frederick family for over 100 years before being sold in 1925 to Miss Mary Gaetz. In 1950, it was inherited by George Macklin and in 1981 came to its present owner. Originally the house was a simple small, single storey gable roofed house with a single massive central chimney, and is shown in this form on both the 1879 and 1890 BEV's. Between 1890-93, the large 2 storey addition was put on the western end of the house to create its present asymmetrical and highly unusual shape. The house has no exterior ornamental features and it is likely that it has always been a rather simple and humble dwelling. However, even with the large addition of the 1890's, or perhaps because of it, the house has still retained its early character and is a good representative of the small, humble houses that were built in this area of Lunenburg in the early 19th century.

Registered deeds suggest that this house which is now known as the Finck-Holder house was built about 1829, probably for Martin Oxner, a merchant. In that year, Martin Oxner, Casper Oxner and John Heckman together acquired lots 4, 5, 6 and 7. Heckman then took full title to lots 4 and 5 (see #55 next door) and Martin Oxner took full title to lots 6 and 7, the price of 135 pounds suggesting that the house may well have been standing at that time. In 1858, the property sold to Elias Oxner and in 1863 was resold to Stephen Finck. Finck, a native of Scotland, was a well respected citizen of Lunenburg. He was a bank agent and a magistrate and became high sheriff of the county for a period in the early 1880's. Signatures in the attic witness the fact that the house was altered in 1870 by Solomon and Joseph Morash (see #55 Montague). Until this time the house most probably had a typical late Georgian face and the

renovations, no doubt, consisted of replacing the smaller windows typical of that style with the larger windows that we still see today, along with introducing the two large Scottish dormers into the roof. Also, the large windows and door were probably added at that time. Wide Cornerboards clapboard siding, a deep transom window over the door and two massive chimneys complete the character of this remarkably well preserved early house. The house left the Finck family in 1915 when it sold to Leonard G. Holder, a machinist, by whose family it is still owned.

Registered deeds place the construction date of this house between 1785-97. It was built for Henry Koch, described alternately as a gentleman and a sawmiller. In 1797, Koch sold the house to John C. Rudolf for 225 pounds and it stayed in the Rudolf family until 1849 when it sold to Judge George T. Solomon for 312 pounds. Solomon was a notable figure in the legal community of the day and was a contemporary of Hon. Richard J. Uniacke and Beamish Murdoch. The house remained in the Solomon family until 1917 when it was purchased by Capt. Alvin Himmelman. From 1922-67 it was owned by Henry Eisenhauer, then after several further changes, passed to its present owner, who has restored the house inside and out in recent years. Built on a massive stone foundation, the post and beam, plank wall structure is designed in the style of the late Georgian period. With a medium pitched gable roof, boarded in with up and down planks, and two massive chimneys, the house has a restful, five bay main facade. Small six over six windows are balanced about the central doorway which has finely ornamented side and transom windows, and reed trim around it. Interestingly, until the house came to its present owner in 1974, it had a projecting central frontispiece, which has now been removed in the process of restoration. The interior, too, is restored in fine detail to its earliest character and the house ranks as one of the Town's finer historic buildings.

This property was originally a part of the Koch-Rudolf-Solomon property next door (#69 Townsend). When Capt. Alvin Himmelman bought that property in 1917, he built this new house on the vacant land next to the old house. It is a substantial, attractive, and well designed example of the style derived from the Queen Anne Revival. Its basic component is a 2 storey truncated hip roofed structure from which project two large bay windows, each crowned by prominent pedimented gables, each of which again, contains small diamond paned attic windows. Also, a small gabled dormer projects from the roof. The main roof eaves are ornamented with a highlighted dentil course and there is an enclosed veranda on the front of the house.

Built for J. #190 Lincoln Laura Rudolf chased by F Knickle (see estate. Similar in s (#75) the h structure wi and bays on contains an Palladian n central key: broad veran bay window designed w imediate pedimented supported plinths, an many inter of the hous and subst

