189 Parkway North

Vianna Tetreault owned the land when the house was built in 1925. She was married to Robert Tetreault, a construction contractor whose parents immigrated from France. The next year, the Tetreaults sold the house to Floyd Jesse Sexton.

The 1926 city directory lists Floyd Sexton as lieutenant commander at the United States Coast Guard Academy, where he served as an instructor in navigation until 1927. Floyd had a prominent military career, ascending to the rank of Rear Admiral. He is recognized by the United States Coast Guard as a notable person; a copy of his life timeline compiled by the USCG is attached.

Born in New York in 1888, Floyd graduated from the USCGA in 1912. He was married to Barbara Marie Perry, with whom he had three children. He served during turbulent times, including both world wars and the Spanish revolution of 1936. He was assigned to CG boats and stations as far as Hawaii, Ireland and the waters of Spain. Floyd retired in 1949 from his last duty station in Boston, Massachusetts. He died in 1981 and is buried in Newton, Massachusetts.

Floyd kept title for almost 20 years. During World War II, Floyd sold the house to Harold and Dorothea Christianson. The Christiansons sold to Harold and Miriam Dean in 1946.

Harold Dean was a lawyer with an office on State Street. The 1950 census shows their family to include two children: 3-year-old daughter Nancy and infant son Bruce.

The next long-term owners of the house were Fannie and Solomon Gordon, who held title from 1961 to 1974. The city directory lists Solomon as a teacher. [I did a google search and found a possible affiliation with a Jewish organization but can’t find it again.]

In 1977, Robert Hayford, Jr. bought the property. His wife, Tracee Reiser, was a dean at Connecticut College and served on New London’s City Council. Robert sold the house in 1989.

Ownership of the house then transferred to various owners, including a bank, who kept the house for five or fewer years until 2004, when title once again became more stable.