

TO: FRAN

228 S. 18<sup>th</sup>

John Willis + Helen Gardner House  
Built c. 1892  
Shingle Style  
Attributed to Harvey Chatter

JOHN WILLIS WAS BORN 8/19/1863. HE WAS THE SON OF ROBERT W. + MARY GARDNER. R.W. WAS THE FOUNDER OF GARDNER GOVERNOR WORKS WHICH WOULD BECOME GARDNER-DENVER. JOHN MARRIED HELEN GIFFORD. EARLY IN HIS LIFE J.W. WORKED AT HIS FATHER'S CO. WHEN HE WAS HOME ON SCHOOL VACATIONS. HE BECAME A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE IN 1881. HE BECAME A PROLIFIC INVENTOR WITH SEVERAL PATENTS TO HIS CREDIT. J.W. BECAME PRESIDENT WHEN HIS FATHER DIED IN 1907. UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP THE COMPANY EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OFFICES IN LISBON, MEXICO CITY + TORONTO. J.W. ALSO WAS AT THE HELM WHEN GARDNER GOVERNOR WORKS MERGED WITH DENVER ROCK DRILL MANUFACTURE CO. IN 1927 TO FORM GARDNER-DENVER. HE DIED IN 1943. HE HAD 3 CHILDREN MARION, RALPH, + RUTH.

P.S. J. SAWS THE STORY ABOUT J.W. + WM A. RICHARDSON SWITCHING HOUSES COULD BE TRUE. HE HAS ALWAYS HEARD THIS STORY THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. HE THINKS THAT THE FIRST J.W. SWAPPED TO GET MORE ROOM FOR ENTERTAINING

228 ~~18<sup>th</sup>~~ S. 18<sup>th</sup> ↔ 1444 MAIN